

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1095

S. P. 349

In Senate, March 9, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Trafton of Androscoggin.

Cosponsor: Senator Najarian of Cumberland.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Relating to the Basic Monthly Charge of Electric Utilities.**

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**35 MRSA § 51**, as amended by PL 1975, c. 409, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

**In determining just and reasonable rates for residential users of electric utilities, the commission shall prohibit the use of basic monthly rates, surcharges, except as provided in section 131, lump sum charges or any other charge that does not conform to the provisions of this section. All customer charges, except as herein provided, shall be billed on a flat per-kilowatt-hour rate basis. Installation costs shall be charged separately.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to remove an unjust practice of charging residential electric users a monthly charge for electricity service during months when electricity is not consumed. In addition, the present billing practice reduces the incentive to conserve energy. If all costs of residential electricity service, excluding installation costs, are charged on a per-kilowatt-hour rate basis, the incentive to reduce electricity consumption will be greater.