

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
109TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-383)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1193, L.D. 1444, Bill,  
"AN ACT to Reduce the Minimum Public Utility Monthly Electrical  
Charge to \$2 and to Prohibit the use by Electrical Utilities of  
an Estimated Meter Reading as a Basis for a Customer Bill."

Amend the Bill by striking out all of the title and inserting  
in its place the following: 'AN ACT to Reduce the Minimum Public  
Utility Monthly Electrical Charge and to Establish a Family Farm  
Rate.'

Further amend the Bill by striking out everything after the  
enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'35 MRSA §§96 and 97 are enacted to read:

§96. Minimum monthly electrical charge

The Public Utilities Commission shall not approve any  
monthly minimum customer charge to electric utility residential  
customers that exceeds \$3.75 per customer.

§97. Family farm rate

With regard to those utilities granted residential rates  
pursuant to this chapter, the Public Utilities Commission shall  
establish a family farm rate. This rate shall be available to  
residential users who require electricity for agricultural  
production as in Title 36, section 2013, subsection 1, paragraph A.

The family farm rate shall be a flat per kilowatt hour rate  
equal to the per kilowatt hour rate of the average residential  
customer, as determined by the commission according to mean  
residential kilowatt hour usage.

any change in the computation of the minimum monthly  
customer charge which increases the per kilowatt hour rate to  
residential customers shall not apply to the family farm rate.

The commission shall require the electric utilities serving family farm customers to assist those customers in reducing electricity usage. The commission shall also investigate the applicability of seasonal rate structure to family farm customers.

Statement of Fact

This amendment establishes a basic monthly residential customer charge of no more than \$3.75 for customers of electric utilities. In addition, this amendment relieves farmers of an additional burden imposed by a reduction in the basic monthly charge. If the basic monthly charge is reduced and the per kilowatt hour rate is increased, farmers will be subsidizing other residential users. As a result, the family farm rate is defined as the residential rate except that any change in the basic monthly customer charge that increases the per kilowatt hour rate will not apply to the family farm rate.