

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1761

H. P. 1652

House of Representatives, January 3, 1980

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mr. McKean of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Establish an Electrical Family Farm Rate.

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

35 MRSA § 97 is enacted to read:

§ 97. Family farm rate

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 defined 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 bill establishes a family farm rate and 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 kilwatt 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 montly customer charge that increases the per kilowatt hour rate will not apply to the family farm rate.