

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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U. O. F. R.

STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
110TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. S-262)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT" A " to S.P. 191, L.D. 492, Bill,  
"AN ACT Relating to Compensatory Telecommunication Toll  
Call Rates for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Persons."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the  
title and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature  
do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment un-  
less enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, deaf and severely hearing impaired persons  
cannot use the telephone system in the same way hearing  
people can, but must use cumbersome teletypewriters to  
transmit typed or visual messages across telephone lines;  
and

Whereas, it now costs deaf persons 5 to 7 times as much  
to communicate a simple message as it costs a hearing per-  
son, and this extraordinary cost effectively serves to iso-  
late deaf persons from society's mainstream; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these  
facts create an emergency within the meaning of the consti-  
tution of Maine and require the following legislation as

immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

35 MRSA §2361, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 625, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Toll call rates. The commission shall establish, within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, a 70% rate reduction for intrastate toll calls from deaf and hearing impaired persons who must rely on teletypewriters for residential telephone communications. To qualify for the reduction, a customer must file an affidavit, on a form approved by the Public Utilities Commission, with the telephone company, stating that, due to deafness or hearing impairment, he or a member of the household must rely on a teletypewriter for telephone communications, and that such equipment is connected to his telephone.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect July 1, 1981.'

Statement of Fact

This amendment establishes a 70% rate reduction from what they would otherwise pay for intrastate toll calls from deaf and hearing impaired persons who must use teletypewriters for telephone communications. It adds procedural requirements to the bill and an emergency clause to make the bill effective July 1, 1981. The Public Utilities Commission would require an additional 30 days after that

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT" A " to S.P. 191, L.D. 492

-3-

date so that the new rates would become effective July 31, 1981.

Reported by the Committee on Public Utilities.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

May 20, 1981

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