

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 926

H. P. 781

House of Representatives, February 19, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Cunningham of New Gloucester.

Cosponsor: Representative Vose of Eastport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Allow Undisputed Portions of a Rate Change to Take Effect During the Pendency of a Rate Proceeding.

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

35 MRSA § 311-A is enacted to read:

§ 311-A. Temporary rates during rate proceeding

During any proceeding initiated by a public utility by a filing pursuant to section 64 or 298, the commission may approve, temporarily, any undisputed amounts of a requested rate increase or rate decrease. The amounts temporarily approved shall be filed by the utility as a temporary schedule which shall be effective from the date of approval of the temporary schedule until the issuance of the final order in the section 64 proceeding.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would authorize the commission to approve during the pendency of a rate case, temporary rates to consist of any amounts of a requested rate increase of rate decrease where it is undisputed that such amounts are just and reasonable.

This bill would broaden the commission's powers to grant temporary rates. Under current law, temporary rates may be granted only to prevent injury to a utility or to the interest of the people, or in the case of an emergency.