

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1055

H. P. 886

House of Representatives, February 26, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Paul of Sanford.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Prohibit Utility Companys from Providing Free or Reduced Rates for Service to its Employees.

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

Sec. 1. 35 MRSA § 103, as amended by PL 1977, c. 234, § 1, is further amended by adding after the first sentence a new sentence to read:

It is unlawful for any public utility to make special rates to its employees.

Sec. 2. 35 MRSA § 103, 2nd sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 234, § 1, is further amended to read:

Chapters 1 to 17 shall not prohibit such free or reduced rates by public utilities as is defined and provided for in the Acts of Congress entitled, "An Act to Regulate Commerce" and Acts amendatory thereof, nor free or reduced transportation to the officers of leased lines or to police officers or firemen in uniform or of municipal fire apparatus, call men of fire departments wearing badges, while going to or returning from fires, chiefs, captains, sergeants, lieutenants and inspectors of police departments, in plain clothes and wearing badges; nor shall it be construed to prohibit any public utility from granting service at free or reduced rates for charitable or benevolent purposes, or for national or civilian defense purposes, nor to prohibit any public utility from supplying water and service free or at reduced or special rates to any person, firm or corporation for fire protection purposes through or by means of any apparatus or appliances

furnished, installed or maintained by such person, firm or corporation, provided the same be approved by the commission; nor shall it be unlawful for any public utility to make special rates ~~to its employees or~~ in case of emergency service, nor shall the furnishing by any public utility of any product or service at the rates and upon terms and conditions provided for in any contract in existence January 1, 1913 be construed as constituting a discrimination or undue or unreasonable preference or advantage within the meaning specified.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill removes the statutory authority for utilities to offer service to their employees at reduced rates. Such a practice forces other users of the utility to subsidize the employee use.