

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1243

S. P. 422

In Senate, March 11, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Trafton of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Concerning Utility Deposits.

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

Sec. 1. 35 MRSA § 314, last sentence, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 548, is amended to read:

The regulations shall also provide that there may be no termination or disconnection during a limited medical emergency and for a just and reasonable procedure regarding reconnections of utility service ~~and deposit requirements.~~

Sec. 2. 35 MRSA § 314, as amended by PL 1977, c. 78, § 198, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The regulations promulgated under this section shall provide for a just and reasonable procedure regarding deposit requirements for residential customers of electric, gas, water or telephone utilities. Upon termination of service the utility shall return the deposit to the customer with interest, less any balance due from the customer for service by the utility. Interest shall be computed from the day of deposit to the day of return, at a rate adjusted each fiscal year to be equal to the utility's composite cost of debt. If the deposit is returned later than one month after termination, the interest rate shall be doubled for the additional time.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill makes the interest payments on deposits held by utilities more equitable, in light of today's high interest rates.