

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1347**

H. P. 1130

House of Representatives, March 17, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Davies of Orono.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**AN ACT to Establish a State Emergency Electric Energy Conservation Plan.**

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

35 MRSA § 97 is enacted to read:

**§ 97. Emergency electric energy conservation plan**

The Public Utilities Commission shall promulgate, by rule, an emergency electric energy conservation plan by January 1, 1983. The plan shall be updated every 5 years thereafter.

1. Provisions of plan. The plan shall include mandatory reductions in electrical consumption by user class, sufficient to meet a 15%, 25% or 35% loss in electrical capacity. The plan shall provide for an equitable electric energy allotment to each user based on need. Any household shall receive a minimum allotment of 500 kilowatt hours per month.

2. Consultation with Office of Energy Resources. The Public Utilities Commission, in preparing the plan, shall consult with and obtain the advice of the Office of Energy Resources.

3. Governor to declare emergency. In the event of a major electrical energy shortage caused by fuel shortages, weather problems, international events, breakdowns of a major generation facility or other cause, the Governor may, in accordance with the procedures of Title 37-A, section 57, subsection 2, declare an

**electrical energy emergency for a period of one to 6 months. The emergency may be extended for additional 6-month periods, but only with legislative approval by a 2/3 vote in each House of the Legislature.**

**4. Excess usage of electric energy prohibited. Use of more electric energy than allotted in any month is prohibited. For any excess, the customer shall be assessed the greater of a 50% surcharge or \$50, which shall be collected by the utility, and forwarded to the Treasurer of State for deposit in the General Fund. Frequent or habitual use of more electric energy than allotted by any corporate person shall be a Class E crime.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to develop an emergency electric conservation plan and gives the Governor authority to invoke the plan in energy emergency situations.