

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 **Legislative Document**

No. 1780

6
7 H. P. 1790 House of Representatives, January 7, 1982
8 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to
Joint Rule 26.

Referred to the Committee on Public Utilities. Sent up for concur-
rence and 1,600 Ordered Printed.

9 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Weymouth of West Gardiner.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Bordeaux of Mount Desert and Represent-
12 ative Vose of Eastport.
13

14 STATE OF MAINE
15

16 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
17 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-TWO
18

19 **AN ACT to Eliminate the Requirement that Changes**
20 **in the Public Utility Rates be Prorated.**
21

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

23 35 MRSA §66, first sentence, as repealed and replaced
24 by PL 1981, c. 469, §13, is repealed and the following
25 enacted in its place:

26 It is unlawful for any public utility to charge,
27 demand, collect or receive a greater or less compensation,
28 except as otherwise provided in section 103, for any service
29 performed by it within the State or for any service in con-
30 nection therewith, than is specified in such printed sched-
31 ules as may at the time be in force, or to demand, collect
32 or receive any rate, toll or charge not specified in the
33 schedules, except that when a public utility changes its

1 rates, tolls or charges pursuant to any provision of this
2 Title, the commission may, for billing purposes, order that
3 the change be applied to all service reflected in meter
4 readings on or after the effective date of the change, or to
5 such other period as it deems just and reasonable.

6 STATEMENT OF FACT

7 Under present law, changes in utility rates take effect
8 on the date the rate change was actually approved by the
9 Public Utilities Commission. This requires utilities to
10 take all meter readings after the effective date and prorate
11 the reading between service rendered before the rate
12 increase and service rendered after the rate increase. In
13 the current economic and regulatory climate, utilities have
14 experienced numerous and frequent changes in the rates
15 allowed to be charged. This fact and the requirement of
16 proration have caused an administrative burden on the utili-
17 ties' resources -- manpower and computers -- which is dis-
18 proportionate to the relatively modest sums involved.

19 This bill attempts to address this problem by allowing
20 the Public Utilities Commission to order changes in utility
21 rates to apply to all service reflected in meter readings on
22 or after a specific date deemed just and reasonable by the
23 commission.

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