

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 922

6
7 S.P. 308

In Senate, February 28, 1983

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

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

11 Presented by Senator Twitchell of Oxford.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Prohibit Unsafe Above-ground
18 Electric Utility Wiring.
19

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

22 35 MRSA §2494 is enacted to read:

23 §2494. Safety of electric utility wiring

24 No electric utility or contractor may place or
25 cause to be placed any electric service wire or cable
26 above ground for any period of time, unless that wire
27 or cable is installed safely. An installation shall
28 only be considered safe if the wires or cables are
29 supported at least 15 feet above ground from poles or
30 other support approved by the commission, or if the
31 cables or wires are installed in conduits approved by
32 the commission.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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Sometimes, if an underground electric service cable breaks in the winter, a temporary replacement cable is simply laid on the ground. This is a safety hazard. The bill prohibits these unsafe practices.

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The primary concern is about the wires which go between the transformer on the pole and the meter on the house. This wire has no fuses, therefore, if anyone should cut into the wire lying on top of the ground, they could get seriously hurt.

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