

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 954

7 S.P. 318

In Senate, March 1, 1983

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Senator Gill of Cumberland.

Cosponsors: Representative Brodeur of Auburn, Representative Connolly
of Portland and Representative Kelleher of Bangor.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Amend the Provisions for
18 Telecommunication Services to the Hearing
19 Impaired.
20

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

23 35 MRSA §2361, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced
24 by PL 1981, c. 416, is amended to read:

25 1. Toll call rates. The commission shall estab-
26 lish, within 30 days after the effective date of this
27 Act, a 70% rate reduction for intrastate toll calls
28 from deaf and hearing impaired persons who must rely
29 on teletypewriters for residential telephone communi-
30 cations. To qualify for the reduction, a customer
31 must file an affidavit, on a form approved by the
32 Public Utilities Commission, with the telephone com-
33 pany, stating that, due to deafness or hearing

1 impairment, he or a member of the household must rely
2 on a teletypewriter for telephone communications, and
3 that such equipment is connected to his telephone.
4 This rate reduction shall also apply on intrastate
5 toll calls made by the customer from a teletypewriter
6 telephone and charged to his residential number.

7 The commission shall establish a 50% rate reduction
8 for intrastate toll calls made from nonprofit agen-
9 cies which serve the hearing-impaired community. To
10 qualify for the reduction, an agency must annually
11 file an affidavit, on a form approved by the commis-
12 sion, with the telephone company stating their pur-
13 poses, clientele and information on their contracts
14 to serve the hearing-impaired community.

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 Although current law allows a rate reduction for
17 hearing-impaired phone customers on calls made from
18 their own phone, it does not cover circumstances
19 where the hearing-impaired person wishes to make a
20 call from another teletypewriter phone, for example
21 at a friend's home or from an office or public tele-
22 typewriter phone. The bill would correct that gap.

23 The bill also provides for a reduced rate for
24 teletypewriter usage for agencies which serve the
25 hearing-impaired community.

26 In both cases, the rate reduction is commensurate
27 to the greater length of time needed to complete a
28 teletypewriter call.

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