

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2097

6  
7 S.P. 778

In Senate, February 21, 1984

8 Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule  
9 24. Reference to the Committee on Public Utilities is suggested and ordered  
10 printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate  
Presented by Senator Baldacci of Penobscot.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Moholland of Princeton, Representative  
Benoit of So. Portland and Representative Matthews of Winslow.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Ensure Universal Telephone  
18 Service for Maine People.  
19

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

22 35 MRSA §74 is enacted to read:

23 §74. Rates to ensure universal telephone service

24 The Legislature declares and finds that the  
25 50-year effort to bring affordable, universally  
26 available telephone service to the public has served  
27 the State well; universal telephone service has con-  
28 tributed to the state's economic, social and political  
29 integration and development; the public benefits  
30 from universal telephone service because each tele-  
31 phone subscriber receives a more valuable service  
32 when virtually anyone else in the State can be  
33 called; significant rate increase will threaten uni-  
34 versal service by forcing many Maine people, espe-

1 cially the poor, the elderly, the handicapped and  
2 those living in high cost areas, to discontinue their  
3 telephone service; and the interest of the Maine peo-  
4 ple demands that telephone service continue to be  
5 universally available at affordable rates.

6 The Legislature directs the Public Utilities Com-  
7 mission to take all necessary action, including, but  
8 not limited to, a targeted subsidy to a segment of  
9 residential customers to the extent deemed necessary  
10 and reasonable by the commission to ensure that  
11 affordable and universally available telephone ser-  
12 vice within the State continues to exist.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 This bill recognizes the importance of universal  
15 telephone service to Maine people and instructs the  
16 Public Utilities Commission to take all appropriate  
17 actions to ensure the continued availability of uni-  
18 versal telephone service for Maine people.

19 5314011284