

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (EMERGENCY)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 522

7
8 H.P. 381

House of Representatives, February 12, 1985

9 Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Manning of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator Chalmers of Knox and Representative Cooper of
12 Windham.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT to Amend Cable Television Franchise
19 Procedures.
20

21 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
22 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
23 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

24 Whereas, many municipalities will be negotiating
25 cable television franchises prior to the adjournment;
26 and

27 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
28 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
29 the Constitution of Maine and require the following
30 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-
31 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
32 therefore,

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

1 30 MRSA §2158, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1983,
2 c. 802, §5, is amended to read:

3 C. A reasonable opportunity for public input
4 prior to granting franchises, provided that, not-
5 withstanding Title 1, section 405, discussion of
6 franchise proposals and meetings between the pub-
7 lic agency or regulatory board and its negotia-
8 tors may be held, in executive session where pre-
9 ature disclosures of the information would prej-
10 udice the competitive or bargaining position of
11 the municipality; and

12 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited
13 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
14 proved.

15 STATEMENT OF FACT

16 The purpose of this bill is to avoid cable compa-
17 nies gaining unfair advantage in negotiation by hav-
18 ing advance knowledge of negotiating positions and
19 strategy.

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