

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 582

7 H.P. 416

House of Representatives, February 14, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Utilities. Sent up for concurrence and
9 ordered printed. Ordered sent forthwith.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Weymouth of West Gardiner.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Chalmers of Knox, Representative Ridley of
Shapleigh and Senator Maybury of Penobscot.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT Concerning the Adoption and
18 Implementation of Mandatory Local
19 Measured Telephone Service.
20

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

23 35 MRSA §107 is enacted to read:

24 §107. Mandatory measured service

25 1. Implementation. No telephone company may im-
26 plement any mandatory tariff for local service based
27 on measuring the number, duration, distance, time of
28 day or any other measurement factor of calls for any
29 class of customers before July 1, 1986, and any com-
30 mission order or opinion now in effect that requires
31 or permits that measuring is nullified.

32 2. Investigation and public hearing. Before any
33 telephone company may implement the mandatory measur-
34 ing of local telephone calls for any class of custom-

1 ers, the commission shall initiate a formal investi-
2 gation and hold a formal public hearing as provided
3 for in Part 1 to determine the justness and reason-
4 ableness of mandatory local measured service. The
5 investigation shall include, without limitation, the
6 costs and savings to both the telephone company and
7 all classes of customers of mandatory local measured
8 service, the effects of mandatory local measured ser-
9 vice upon customers, whether mandatory local measured
10 service will impose additional costs upon any class
11 of customers that exceeds the cost to provide that
12 service and any other relevant matter. The commis-
13 sion shall base its decision to order or permit any
14 telephone company to implement mandatory measuring of
15 local telephone service for any class of customer
16 upon the evidence presented in the formal public
17 hearing.

18 3. Sample billing and reports. Any new or ex-
19 isting program to provide customers with a sample
20 bill showing what that customer's local service
21 charges would be under mandatory measured service
22 shall be in place for at least 12 consecutive months
23 prior to the commission ordering or permitting the
24 implementation of mandatory measured service. Any
25 reports required of any telephone company to monitor
26 the implementation and customer acceptance of manda-
27 tory measured service shall be transmitted at the
28 same time it is received by the commission directly
29 to each member of the joint standing committee of the
30 Legislature having jurisdiction over public utili-
31 ties.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The Public Utilities Commission has recently made
3 a major policy change in the pricing of local tele-
4 phone calls by requiring New England Telephone Compa-
5 ny to institute the mandatory measuring of local
6 calls in 8 exchanges serving approximately 25%
7 (100,000) of New England Telephone's customers. The
8 Public Utilities Commission order followed the com-
9 pletion of a rate case which began in 1983. None of
10 the many parties to that case supported the institu-
11 tion of mandatory measured service for local calls
12 and the issue was not fully and thoroughly addressed.

13 Mandatory measured service will result in addi-
14 tional costs for measuring, may disrupt the calling
15 patterns of many Maine business, governmental, non-
16 profit and residential customers which do not reflect
17 the cost to New England Telephone Company to provide
18 that service.

19 This bill prohibits any implementation of manda-
20 tory measured service before July 1, 1986; requires
21 the commission to hold new formal public hearings on
22 the issue; requires that the existing comparative
23 billing program be extended to 12 months; and re-
24 quires that any tracking reports received by the com-
25 mission also be sent to each member of the joint
26 standing committee of the Legislature having juris-
27 diction over public utilities.

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