

# 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. 1320

8 S.P. 494

In Senate, April 16, 1985

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

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

Presented by Senator Gill of Cumberland.

12 Cosponsored by Senator Baldacci of Penobscot and Representative  
Nelson of Portland.

13 STATE OF MAINE  
14

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

18 AN ACT to Provide Toll-free Telephone Lines  
19 for Community Emergency Nonprofit  
20 Services.  
21

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

25 Whereas, local measured service may go into ef-  
26 fect on July 1, 1985; and

27 Whereas, the itemized billing accompanying local  
28 measured service removes the privacy of local calls;  
29 and

30 Whereas, the loss of privacy may prevent some  
31 people from contacting needed emergency services for  
32 fear of reprisal; and

33 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,  
34 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of

1 the Constitution of Maine and require the following  
2 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-  
3 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
4 therefore,

5 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
6 follows:

7       Sec. 1. 35 MRSA §2702 is enacted to read:

8       §2702. Toll-free telephone lines for emergency, non-  
9       profit services

10       Toll-free incoming emergency telephone lines  
11       shall be provided by qualifying emergency services as  
12       follows.

13       1. Definition. For purposes of this section,  
14       the term "qualifying emergency service" includes lo-  
15       cal fire, police and emergency rescue operations,  
16       emergency services at nonprofit hospitals and emer-  
17       gency mental health programs at a licensed regional  
18       mental health service.

19       2. Toll-free emergency telephones. Each quali-  
20       ifying emergency service shall provide an emergency  
21       line for clients and other citizens to call the agen-  
22       cy. The line shall be toll-free for calls originat-  
23       ing within the area served by the qualifying emergen-  
24       cy service.

25       3. Rates. The Public Utilities Commission shall  
26       establish a special flat rate schedule for intrastate  
27       local and long distance calls to the toll-free emer-  
28       gency telephones covered by this section. The rates  
29       shall be reasonable as low as can be justified con-  
30       sidering the marginal cost to the system of this ser-  
31       vice. The rates may differ from one service area to  
32       another, but they shall not be based on a per-call  
33       basis. They shall be flat rates and itemized billing  
34       is prohibited.

35       Sec. 2. Exempting from local measured ser-  
36 vice. Each qualifying emergency service as defined  
37 by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35, section  
38 2702, subsection 2, shall be exempt from local mea-

