

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. 1336

8 H.P. 921

House of Representatives, April 17, 1985

9 On Motion of Representative Vose of Eastport House reconsidered
10 reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and on
11 further motion of same Representative referred to the Committee on Utilities.
Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Vose of Eastport.

12 Cosponsored by Senator Baldacci of Penobscot, Representative Richard
of Madison and Representative Nicholson of South 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 Adequate Facilities for the
19 Public Utilities Commission.
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, the 90-day period may not terminate un-
25 til the summer of 1985; and

26 Whereas, the current facilities housing the Pub-
27 lic Utilities Commission are inadequate to meet the
28 needs of the agency, seriously impeding the commis-
29 sion's ability to function effectively and efficient-
30 ly; and

31 Whereas, the funds to be raised by this Act would
32 have to be assessed on May 1, 1985; 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 §17, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

8 7. Special assessment. Every utility subject to
9 assessments pursuant to this section shall be subject
10 to an additional assessment on its intrastate gross
11 operating revenues to produce no more than \$250,000
12 in revenues annually in fiscal years 1985-86 and
13 1986-87. The revenues produced from this assessment
14 shall be used to make necessary improvements in the
15 facilities housing the Public Utilities Commission at
16 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine. These funds shall
17 be raised and accounted for in accordance with the
18 provisions of this section in a separate Public Util-
19 ities Commission Facilities Fund, to which any inter-
20 est on the funds collected shall accrue. The author-
21 ity to issue assessments under this subsection shall
22 terminate on June 30, 1987. The assessments charged
23 to utilities under this subsection shall be deemed
24 just and reasonable operating costs for amortization
25 in the utility's next rate case. Any funds remaining
26 in the fund after the improvements have been made
27 will either be returned to the utilities or used to
28 reduce the following year's Public Utilities Commis-
29 sion Regulatory Fund assessment.

30 Sec. 2. Allocation. Income not otherwise allo-
31 cated from the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory
32 Fund is allocated for the fiscal years ending June
33 30, 1986, and June 30, 1987, and shall be segregated,
34 apportioned and disbursed as designated in the fol-
35 lowing schedule:

| | <u>1985-86</u> | <u>1986-87</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 36 | | |
| 37 Public Utilities Commission | | |
| 38 Capital Expenditures | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |

