

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1 (EMERGENCY)
2 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 1956

7
8 H.P. 1387

House of Representatives, January 31, 1986

9 Reported by Representative Vose from the Committee on Utilities. Sent
10 up for concurrence and ordered printed. Approved by the Legislative Council
on May 22, 1985.

11 Reported from the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities under Joint
Rule 19.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

12
13 STATE OF MAINE
14

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

18 AN ACT to Prohibit Local Measured Service
19 Prior to December 31, 1986.
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, local measured service is scheduled to
25 go into effect February 15, 1986; and

26 Whereas, it is likely that there will be a refer-
27 endum on this subject in November 1986; and

28 Whereas, it is prudent to delay implementation of
29 local measured service until after the election of
30 November 1986, in order to permit the voters to make
31 their preferences known; and

32 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature,
33 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of
34 the Constitution of Maine and require the following

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

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

6 35 MRSA §80 is enacted to read:

7 §80. Local telephone service rates

8 1. Prohibition. Except as provided in subsec-
9 tion 2, local measured service, both optional and
10 mandatory is prohibited prior to December 31, 1986.
11 Prior to that date, the Public Utilities Commission
12 shall establish rates for local telephone service on-
13 ly on a flat rate basis with unlimited local calling.

14 2. Exception. Any optional local measured ser-
15 vice plan in effect on December 31, 1985, may contin-
16 ue in effect. Usage based prices may also be charged
17 to customers who use the local telephone network to
18 complete interexchange calls, that is, calls beyond
19 the local calling area for flat-rate customers, to
20 provide shared tenant services or to provide coin
21 service. The commission may order just and reason-
22 able changes in the rates for the services covered by
23 these exceptions.

24 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited
25 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-
26 proved.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 A local measured service telephone rate structure
3 is scheduled to go into effect February 15, 1986, in
4 8 localities. A group of citizens has circulated
5 legislation to ban mandatory local measured phone
6 service and direct the State to keep flat-rate local
7 phone service at as low a cost as possible. That
8 legislation is to be submitted in February as an ini-
9 tiated bill. Under the Constitution of Maine, Arti-
10 cle IV, Part Third, Section 18, if the Legislature
11 does not enact that legislation the initiated bill
12 will be submitted to the voters in November 1986.

13 This bill is report Y of the study of local tele-
14 phone service conducted by the Joint Standing Commit-
15 tee on Utilities. This bill prohibits local measured
16 service prior to December 31, 1986, except for resold
17 services and for the limited optional measured ser-
18 vice that was available at the end of 1985.

19

5682012186