

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 850

H.P. 627 House of Representatives, March 20, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Legal Affairs suggested and  
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative HANDY of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives JALBERT of Lisbon, HOLT of  
Bath and REEVES of Pittston.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Require Monthly Monitoring and  
2 Reporting of Political Activities of  
3 Utility Companies during  
4 Utility-related Referendum Initiating  
5 Campaigns.  
6

7 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as  
8 follows:

9 35 MRS A §51-B is enacted to read:

10 §51-B. Monitoring of politically related activities  
11 of utility companies

12 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this sec-  
13 tion, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
14 following terms have the following meanings.

1        A. A "utility vote" means any public vote which  
2        is the result of a referendum or of an initiated  
3        bill which is concerned with any issue relating  
4        to public utilities.

5        2. Report requirements. A monthly activity re-  
6        port includes information on time of employees and  
7        other expenses which have been or are now included in  
8        the rates of the reporting utility company, including  
9        the following:

10       A. The estimated number of the utility employees  
11       who will be active in campaign work;

12       B. The specific tasks which the employees will  
13       be carrying out;

14       C. The office space, equipment, vehicles and  
15       other items which are owned by the utility compa-  
16       ny, which have been used in the campaign;

17       D. The estimated amount of money which will be  
18       or has been used for the campaign; and

19       E. The specific items the money will be or has  
20       been spent on.

21       3. Monthly reports; prior to vote. A public  
22       utility company shall submit monthly activity reports  
23       to the Government Ethics Commission during the 9  
24       months prior to a utility vote.

25       4. Monthly reports; when due. The first monthly  
26       activity report shall be due on the date, 9 months in  
27       advance of the voting day, and every calendar month  
28       thereafter.

29       5. Deduction from projected cost. Within 30  
30       days of the filing of the monthly activity report,  
31       the Public Utilities Commission shall deduct these  
32       costs from rates on a timely basis so that customers  
33       do not involuntarily contribute to a utility's polit-  
34       ical activities.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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By asking utility companies to project and then account for expenses involved in political campaigns, this bill will ensure that utility rates do not reflect the utility companies expenditure on campaigns.

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