

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)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1025

H.P. 762 House of Representatives, March 31, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative RYDELL of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Representatives REEVES of Pittston, HOLT
of Bath and Senator ANDREWS of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Encourage Customer Participation in
2 Rate-making Proceedings of the Public
3 Utilities Commission.
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§10, ¶A, sub-¶(73-A)
8 is enacted to read:

9 (73-A) Public Citizen's Ad- Not 35 MRSA
10 Utilities visory Board Authorized §300-A

11 Sec. 2. 35 MRSA §300-A is enacted to read:

12 §300-A. Customer participation in utility programs
13 and rate-making proceedings

1 1. Citizen's Advisory Board. The Citizen's Ad-
2 visory Board, as established in Title 5, section
3 12004, subsection 10, paragraph A, subparagraph
4 (73-A), shall consist of 11 members, appointed in the
5 following manner:

6 A. Three members shall be appointed by the Pres-
7 ident of the Senate;

8 B. Three members shall be appointed by the
9 Speaker of the House;

10 C. Three members shall be appointed by the Gov-
11 ernor; and

12 D. Two members shall be appointed by the Board
13 of Directors of Pine Tree Legal Services.

14 (1) The board of directors shall appoint
15 persons of a low-income group.

16 2. Terms. The members of the board shall serve
17 3-year terms, except that the initial appointments
18 shall be made in the following manner: Of the 3 ap-
19 pointments made by the President of the Senate, the
20 Speaker of the House and the Governor, one person
21 shall be appoint to a term of 3 years, another person
22 appointed to a term of 2 years and another person ap-
23 pointed to a term of 1 year; of the 2 appointments
24 made by the Board of Directors of Pine Tree Legal
25 Services, one person shall be appointed to a 3-year
26 term and the other person to a 2-year term.

27 3. Chairman. The members of the Citizen's Ad-
28 visory Board shall appoint a chairman, who shall call
29 regular meetings and make reports to the Public Util-
30 ities Commission.

31 4. General powers. The Citizen's Advisory Board
32 shall have the following powers and duties.

33 A. The board shall conduct regular meetings.
34 The Public Utilities Commission Consumer Assist-
35 ance Division shall assist in drafting agenda and
36 providing information as needed.

1 B. The board shall cooperate with the Public
2 Utilities Commission to review its decisions, ac-
3 tivities, operations and the rates it has set for
4 any public utility.

5 C. The board may obtain informational data from
6 any public utility.

7 D. The board shall advise the Public Utilities
8 Commission and its staff advocates on consumer
9 interests and concerns.

10 E. The board shall recommend appropriate demon-
11 stration programs and rates which are of benefit
12 to residential ratepayers.

13 5. Written response required. When any person
14 participates in Public Witness Days Program, by tes-
15 tifying either orally or in writing before the Public
16 Utilities Commission, the Public Utilities Commission
17 shall be required to respond in writing within 60
18 days of the person's testifying.

19 6. Protection of customers who testify from
20 harassment. No public utility official may harass in
21 any manner any person who participates in the Public
22 Witness Days Program or who signs a formal complaint
23 or otherwise petitions the Public Utilities Commis-
24 sion or any public utility.

25 7. Bill inserts. Every public utility shall in-
26 clude, in its regular monthly billing, information
27 explaining that customers may participate in the
28 rate-making process.

29 A. The Public Utilities Commission shall promul-
30 gate rules which shall:

31 (1) Designate the volume and type of infor-
32 mation to be included as bill inserts;

33 (2) Specify how these inserts shall explain
34 that customers may participate in the rate-
35 making process; and

36 (3) Mandate that the inserts encourage cus-
37 tomers to participate in the rate-making
38 process.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2

This bill creates a Citizen's Advisory Board
3 which will allow citizens a greater role in the rate-
4 making process.

5

1588022787