

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 394

H.P. 282

House of Representatives, February 23, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative ANTHONY of South Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

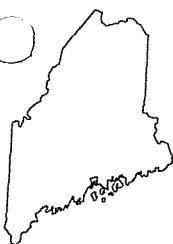
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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

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**An Act to Extend the Toll Call Discount Given to Deaf, Hearing Impaired or Speech Impaired Persons.**

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1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

3 **35-A MRSA §7302, §1**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A,  
5 is amended to read:

7 1. **Rate reduction.** The commission shall establish a 70%  
9 rate reduction for intrastate toll calls from deaf and, hearing  
11 impaired and speech impaired persons who must rely on  
13 teletypewriters for residential telephone communications. This  
15 reduction shall also apply to intrastate toll calls made by  
17 agencies while providing vocal relay services to deaf, hearing  
19 impaired and speech impaired persons, as well as to community  
21 service centers serving deaf, hearing impaired and speech  
23 impaired persons.

### 25 STATEMENT OF FACT

27 Currently, deaf, hearing impaired and speech impaired  
29 persons are entitled to a 70% rate reduction for intrastate toll  
31 calls because they rely on teletypewriters and consequently are  
33 much slower to transmit messages. That discount is not available  
35 to providers of vocal relay services who relay messages between  
hearing or speech impaired clients and persons or agencies  
without hearing or speech impairments. The discount is not  
available to community centers that provide information and  
referral services to this same clientele. These agencies are  
required to use teletypewriting devices which result in lengthy  
calls.

This bill corrects this inequity by extending the discount  
presently available to persons with speech or hearing impairments  
and gives it to those agencies that connect such individuals with  
the rest of the world.