

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 874

(Filing No. H-145)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "**B**" to H.P. 640, L.D. 874, Bill, "An Act to Give Deaf, Hearing Impaired and Speech Impaired Persons the Same Rights of Communication by Telephone as Those Given to Persons Without Such Impairments"

Amend the bill by striking its title and inserting in its place the following:

'An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Study the Implementation of Continuous Relay Services for Deaf, Hearing Impaired or Speech Impaired Persons'

Further amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is the belief of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities that the Public Utilities Commission should make provisions for the establishment of a system to provide continuous telephone relay services for deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired persons who must rely on teletypewriter equipment for telephone communications; and

Whereas, for the Public Utilities Commission to complete the study outlined in this Act, the commission should start as soon as possible;

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, '

Further amend the bill by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission Study. The Public Utilities Commission shall undertake a study of the

1 implementation of a system to provide continuous telephone relay
2 services to deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired persons who
3 must rely on teletypewriter equipment for telephone
4 communications.

5
6 The study shall include a review of the following topics
7 regarding continuous telephone relay services:

8 1. Alternative system designs and implementation plans for a
9 statewide system;

10 2. The potential benefits and practicality of developing a
11 regional, multi-state system;

12 3. Cost estimates for alternative system designs;

13 4. Alternative mechanisms for funding the system; and

14 5. A recommendation for a system to serve Maine and
15 recommended method of funding the system.

16
17 **Sec. 2. Consultation with and cooperation of other agencies.** The
18 Public Utilities Commission shall consult with appropriate
19 agencies and organizations serving the deaf community, with
20 representatives of the deaf community and with relevant state
21 agencies. The other state agencies shall cooperate with the
22 Public Utilities Commission in conducting the study.

23
24 **Sec. 3. Report.** The Public Utilities Commission shall report
25 their findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities by
26 January 5, 1990. The report shall include a legislative proposal
27 for the implementation of a plan to provide continuous telephone
28 relay services.

29
30 **Sec. 4. Staff.** The Public Utilities Commission may contract
31 for services to complete this study.

32
33 **Sec. 5. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
34 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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41 **1989-90**

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

42
43 **Public Utilities - Administrative**
44 **Division**

45
46 All Other \$45,000

47
48
49 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
50 preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.
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STATEMENT OF FACT

5 This amendment replaces the original bill and authorizes the
7 Public Utilities Commission to carry out a study and develop a
9 legislative proposal for the implementation of a system to
11 provide continuous telephone relay services for deaf, hearing
impaired and speech impaired persons. It adds an emergency
preamble and clause and appropriates \$45,000 from the General
Fund to pay for consultant services and commission staff time.

Reported by the Minority of the Committee on Utilities
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the
House
5/4/89

(Filing No. H-145)