

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 1561

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S.P. 558

In Senate, May 9, 1989

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative DORE of Auburn.

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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 Create the Lineworker's Safety Act.

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(After Deadline)



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

3 26 MRSA c. 33 is enacted to read:

5 CHAPTER 33

7 LINEWORKER SAFETY

9 §2181. Definitions

11 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
13 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

15 1. Qualified lineworker. "Qualified lineworker" means an  
17 individual who, by virtue of training, experience, knowledge and  
19 judgment, is deemed to be capable of performing work on energized  
21 electric distribution and transmission systems. By designation  
23 as a first, 2nd or 3rd class lineworker, or by other appropriate  
25 designation, an employer may define the work that an individual  
is qualified to perform. An individual who has not completed an  
approved apprenticeship program for lineworkers must have a  
minimum of 2 years' experience at the lineworking trade under the  
supervision of a qualified lineworker to be considered a  
qualified lineworker.

27 §2182. Board rules

29 The Board of Occupational Safety and Health shall promulgate  
31 rules for safe and healthful working conditions for qualified  
lineworkers in conformance with nationally recognized standards  
of occupational safety and health as authorized in chapter 6.

33 §2183. Working aloft; requirements

35 1. Working aloft from a pole. When working aloft from a  
37 pole on energized conductors of more than 600 volts, there must  
39 be at least one qualified lineworker designated as first class,  
41 together with another lineworker having at least 2 years'  
43 experience as a lineworker with a working knowledge of primary  
voltages. Both lineworkers must be trained and proficient in  
current pole-top rescue procedures, first aid and cardiopulmonary  
resuscitation.

45 The 2nd lineworker is not required:

47 A. When the qualified lineworker is operating switches,  
49 fuses or testing equipment from the ground by means of an  
insulated operating handle or stick; or

51 B. When life or public safety are in imminent danger, a 2nd  
53 lineworker is not immediately available and, in the judgment  
of the qualified lineworker on the scene, the hazard can be  
corrected safely alone.

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2. Working aloft from a bucket. When working aloft from a bucket on energized conductors of more than 600 volts, there must be at least one qualified lineworker designated as first class, together with another lineworker having at least 2 years' experience as a lineworker with a working knowledge of primary voltages. Both lineworkers must be trained and proficient in operating the lower bucket controls, removing an injured employee from the bucket, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. A mechanical means for removing an injured employee from the bucket must be available.

The 2nd lineworker is not required:

A. When the qualified lineworker is operating switches, fuses or testing equipment from the ground by means of an insulated operating handle or stick;

B. When the qualified lineworker is applying or removing clamps and grounds by means of an insulated operating handle or stick from the bucket, providing that full load is neither interrupted nor picked up; or

C. When life or public safety are in imminent danger, a 2nd lineworker is not immediately available and, in the judgment of the lineworker on the scene, the hazard can be corrected safely alone.

3. Gloves. A qualified lineworker shall wear high voltage rubber gloves with leather protectors while working from a pole or bucket on energized distribution lines. The gloves must be worn before leaving and until returning to the ground.

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

This bill, in addition to requiring the Board of Occupational Safety and Health to promulgate safety rules for lineworkers, requires that when lineworkers are working aloft on high-voltage conductors they must be trained in rescue and first aid, must wear protective gloves and in most cases must be accompanied by another lineworker.