

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1425

H.P. 980

House of Representatives, April 4, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

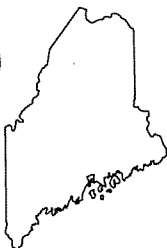
Presented by Representative OLIVER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative HOLT of Bath, Representative ADAMS of Portland and Senator CONLEY of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

**An Act to Provide Affordable Electric Service for Low-income Citizens
of the State.**



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

4 **35-A MRSA §3152, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §140, is further amended to read:**

6 **1. Increased efficiency.** The Legislature declares and
8 finds that improvements in electric utility rate design and
10 related regulatory programs have great potential for reducing the
12 cost of electric utility services to consumers, for encouraging
energy conservation and efficient use of existing facilities and
for minimizing the need for expensive new electric generating and
transmission capacity. It is the purpose of this chapter to:

14 **A. Require the commission to relate electric rates more
16 closely to the costs of providing electric service; and**

18 **A-1. Require the commission to adopt programs designed to
20 lessen the burden of electric rates on the State's
22 impoverished citizens, including such programs as relating
electric rates to the household's income, deferred billing
procedures and conservation initiatives; and**

24 **B. Encourage the commission to set electric rates to
26 promote the maximum efficient utilization of natural energy
28 resources existing in the State in order to promote the use
of indigenous energy resources to the extent that this will
reduce overall electric costs.**

30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

32 This bill confirms that it is the Legislature's intention
34 that among the goals of the Public Utility Commission should be
36 the adoption of programs that will lessen the burden of electric
38 rates on the State's impoverished citizens. Among the programs
the commission should consider are programs that relate the
electric rate to the household's income, deferred billing
procedures and conservation initiatives.