

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1698

H.P. 1157

House of Representatives, April 25, 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

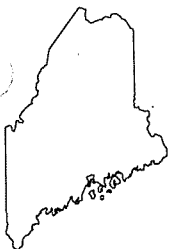
Presented by Representative ADAMS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative GRAY of Sedgwick and Senator VOSE of Washington.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Promote Participation in Affordable Telephone Service.



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

2
35-A MRS.A §7101, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6,
4 is amended to read:

6 **§7101. Telecommunications policy; universal telephone
7 service**

8
9 The Legislature declares and finds that the 50-year effort
10 to bring affordable, universally available telephone service to
11 the public has served the State well; universal telephone service
12 has contributed to the State's economic, social and political
13 integration and development; the public benefits from universal
14 telephone service because each telephone subscriber receives a
15 more valuable service when virtually anyone else in the State can
16 be called; and a significant rate increase may threaten universal
17 service by forcing some Maine people to discontinue their
18 telephone service. It is the policy of the State that telephone
19 service ~~shall~~ must continue to be universally available,
20 especially to the poor, at affordable rates. To achieve these
21 purposes, the Public Utilities Commission shall require each
22 individual local telephone company to participate in a statewide
23 outreach program designed to increase the number of low-income
24 telephone customers on the network through increased
25 participation in any universal service programs approved by the
26 commission. The Public Utilities Commission may adopt rules to
27 implement this section.

28
29
30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

31 This bill provides that the Public Utilities Commission must
32 require local telephone companies to participate in a statewide
33 outreach program designed to increase the number of low-income
34 telephone customers with access to telephone service.
35
36