

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 155

H.P. 113

House of Representatives, January 25, 1993

An Act Concerning Fair Electric Rates.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative DONNELLY of Presque Isle.

Cosponsored by Representatives CARLETON of Wells, CASHMAN of Old Town, Senator VOSE of Washington.

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

Whereas, state law requires that electric rates reflect the cost of providing electric service to each customer class; and

Whereas, fair and reasonable electric rates for each class of customers are accomplished through the rate design process; and

Whereas, the marginal costs upon which rate designs are based have changed dramatically in recent years; and

Whereas, rate designs currently in place are based on data that are several years old; and

Whereas, recent rate design cases have been postponed or delayed to the detriment of some customer classes; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the State to have electric rates reflect the actual cost of service to each customer class; and

Whereas, citizens of the State depend on electricity for heating, lighting, refrigeration and other necessities of life; and

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,

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3153-B is enacted to read:

§3135-B. Rate design decisions

The commission shall issue a final order adopting a rate design within 12 months after the date of filing of any rate design proposal by an electric utility. The commission shall issue an order adopting rates in compliance with a final rate design order within 3 months after the date of the issuance of that final order.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

2
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This bill establishes a time frame for rate design decisions by the Public Utilities Commission.