



116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 278

S.P. 100

In Senate, February 2, 1993

An Act to Provide Additional Powers to the Public Utilities Commission.

Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 24. Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VOSE of Washington. Cosponsored by Representative: CLARK of Millinocket.

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

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Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §112, sub-§4, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. Subject to the requirements of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine and upon a finding that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a public utility is altering, amending, removing or destroying any of its books, accounts, papers or records in an attempt to frustrate an investigation of the commission, the commission, without notice, may issue an order requiring seizure of those documents that are necessary for the commission to discharge its duties.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill expands the powers of the Public Utilities Commission to allow for the seizure of public utility records when reasonable grounds exist to believe that a utility is destroying or altering those documents with the purpose of frustrating a commission investigation into the acts or practices of that utility. Given the volume of records required to be maintained by public utilities, the commission's current powers may be insufficient to protect the integrity of utility records.

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