

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 1598

S.P. 563

In Senate, December 29, 1993

An Act to Protect Cable Television Consumers from Excessive Late Fees.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 29, 1993. Referred to the Committee
on Utilities and 1200 ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ESTY of Cumberland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3010, sub-§6-B, as enacted by PL 1991, c.
657, §1, is amended to read:

6 6-B. Late fees. A cable television system operator may not
charge a late fee ea or other penalty or charge for late payment
8 of any bill for basic tier service, as defined in the federal
Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, 47 United States Code,
10 Section 522, that exceeds the maximum amount established under
12 Title 9-A, Part 2. If a late fee is charged on more than one
level of service, it must be calculated on the total dollar
14 amount of such services, and may not be calculated separately on
each service to which it applies and then cumulated. A payment
16 is not late under this subsection until at least 30 days after
those services to which the late fee applies have been received
by the consumer.

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22 STATEMENT OF FACT

24 The purpose of this bill is to protect cable television
consumers from the imposition of excessive late fees. In 1991,
26 the Legislature passed a law that regulates the late fee for
basic service cable television. This bill limits the late fee
28 that may be charged on any services, including basic, standard,
"a la carte" and premium services, to the maximum which is
allowed under the Maine Consumer Credit Code.

30 In addition, this bill specifies that a payment is not
32 considered "late" for purposes of imposing a late fee until at
least 30 days have passed from the time the consumer receives the
34 services.

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42 This document has not yet been reviewed to determine the
need for cross-reference, stylistic and other technical
amendments to conform existing law to current drafting standards.