

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1994

Legislative Document

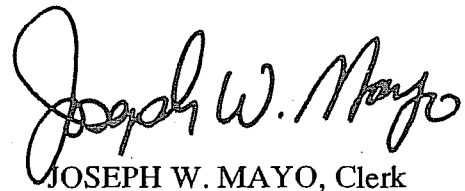
No. 1642

H.P. 1223

House of Representatives, January 6, 1994

**An Act to Establish a Financial Assistance Program for Utilities
Burdened as a Result of State Highway Construction.**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative O'GARA of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Representative: DONNELLY of Presque Isle, Senators: BRANNIGAN of
Cumberland, CARPENTER of York.

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

4 Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §256, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 860, §1, is
repealed and the following enacted in its place:

6 §256. Financial assistance program for utilities

8 In order to assist water utilities and combination water and
10 sewer utilities that have annual revenues of \$15,000,000 or less
12 in the relief of extreme financial hardship caused by the
14 relocation of utility facilities that are part of bridge and
16 highway projects, the Department of Transportation shall loan to
those utilities, interest free, 90% of the utility relocation
cost, excluding the cost of upgrades, when the cost of the
utility relocation is 5% or more of the utility's prior fiscal
year revenues. The term of the loans may not exceed 20 years.

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20 STATEMENT OF FACT

22 Pursuant to Public Law 1991, chapter 860, the Department of
24 Transportation was required to file a report with the Joint
26 Standing Committee on Transportation for the development of a
program to provide financial assistance to utilities experiencing
serious financial hardship as a result of the relocation of
facilities that are part of bridge and highway projects.

28 This bill implements the report presented to the Joint
30 Standing Committee on Transportation in March 1993 establishing
the financial assistance program for water utilities and
32 combination water and sewer utilities that have an annual revenue
of \$15,000,000 or less.

34 Under this program, the Department of Transportation will
36 provide interest-free loans for up to 90% of the utility
relocation cost when the cost of the utility relocation is 5% or
38 more of the utility's prior fiscal year revenues.

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