

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

M
R.O.S.

L.D. 61

2
4
DATE: May 11, 1995

(Filing No. S- 142)

6
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

8 Reported by: The Minority of the Committee.

10 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary
of the Senate.

12
14 STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
16 117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

18 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 31, L.D. 61, Bill, "An Act
20 to Facilitate Charging Electric Utility Customers Based on Actual
Usage"

22 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting
24 clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its
place the following:

26 'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSa §3104 is enacted to read:

28 **§3104. Billing practices; estimated usage; electric utilities**

30 An electric utility may not bill any customer on the basis
32 of a utility's estimate of the customer's usage except in
conformity with this section.

34 **1. Notice.** An electric utility shall send a notice to each
36 customer whose usage the utility intends to estimate. The notice
must be provided at least once every 6 months and to new
38 customers upon installation of electric service. The notice must
inform the customer of the customer's options pursuant to this
40 section.

42 **2. Customer choice.** An electric utility may not bill any
customer on the basis of the utility's estimate of the customer's
44 usage if the customer has requested the utility not to estimate
the customer's usage. An electric utility may not impose a
46 penalty on customers who choose to exercise their option under
this subsection.

R. & S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 31, L.D. 61

2 3. Customer meter reading. An electric utility may not bill
3 a customer on the basis of the utility's estimate of the
4 customer's usage unless the utility permits the customer to read
5 the customer's own meter in lieu of having the electric utility
6 estimate the customer's usage. The utility must permit a
7 customer to report a meter reading either by telephone or in
8 writing.

9
10 A. If an electric utility permits customers to report meter
11 readings by phone, the utility shall make provision for
12 receipt of meter readings from persons using touch-tone
13 telephones and from persons using rotary telephones. The
14 utility must provide toll-free lines for reporting meter
15 readings.

16 B. If an electric utility permits a customer to report meter
17 readings in writing, the utility must supply the customer
18 postage-paid business reply forms on which the customer may
19 mark the customer's meter reading. The number of business
20 reply forms must be equal to the number of customer billing
21 cycles in which the utility plans to bill the customer on
22 the basis of estimated usage.

23 An electric utility shall use a customer's meter reading in lieu
24 of the utility's estimate of the customer's usage whenever the
25 utility receives the customer's meter reading in time for billing.

26
27 Nothing in this section limits the authority of the
28 commission to regulate the billing practices of electric
29 utilities consistent with this section.'
30

31
32
33 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

34
35 This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint
36 Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, replaces the bill.

37 Under this amendment, an electric utility that proposes to
38 bill customers on the basis of estimated usage must:

39
40
41 1. Allow customers, without penalty, to opt out of any usage
42 estimating program adopted by an electric utility;

43
44 2. Allow customers the option of reading their own meters in
45 lieu of utility estimates of customer usage. Customers must be
46 permitted to report meter readings by telephone or in writing.
47 If the utility permits reporting by phone, the utility must
48 provide toll-free access lines and must accommodate calls from

R d S.
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 31, L.D. 61

2 customers using touch-tone or rotary dialing. If the customers
are permitted to provide their readings in writing, the utility
4 must provide the customers with postage-paid reply forms; and

6 3. Provide notice to customers of these options.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT