

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 866

H.P. 643

House of Representatives, March 21, 1995

**An Act to Establish a Reduced Rate for Electric Utility Consumers on
Life-support Equipment.**

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ADAMS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, CHARTRAND of Rockland, GATES of Rockport, GERRY of Auburn, GREEN of Monmouth, HEESCHEN of Wilton, JONES of Bar Harbor, KILKELLY of Wiscasset, O'NEAL of Limestone, TREAT of Gardiner, TRIPP of Topsham, WATSON of Farmingdale, WHEELER of Bridgewater, Senators: MICHAUD of Penobscot, PINGREE of Knox.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §703-A** is enacted to read:

6 **§703-A. Energy rates for electricity users depending on
life-support equipment**

8 **1. Rate reduction.** The commission shall establish a 50%
10 reduction in energy charges by an electric utility for
residential usage associated with life-support equipment in the
12 home.

14 **2. Qualifications for the reduction.** To qualify for the
16 reduction, a customer must file an affidavit, on a form approved
by the commission and signed by a physician, with the electric
18 utility stating that, due to a medical condition, that customer
or a member of the household must rely on life-support equipment
on a semipermanent or continuous basis and identifying the type
20 and manufacture of that equipment.

22 **3. Rules for calculating rate reduction.** Within 120 days
24 following the effective date of this section, the commission
shall establish rules governing the form of affidavits,
26 identifying eligible equipment, selecting a method for
calculating the portion of household usage eligible for reduction
and selecting a method for applying credits to eligible
28 customers' bills.

30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

32 This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to
34 establish reduced utility rates for those on life-sustaining
36 equipment in their homes. It is modeled on the reduced rate
38 given to people with hearing or speech impairments for
long-distance telephone equipment and the telephone system. This
bill establishes a 50% reduction in the electricity rate for
people providing an affidavit indicating that the use of the
equipment is necessary for life-support.