

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 883

H.P. 660

House of Representatives, March 21, 1995

An Act to Enhance Networking Technology for Public Schools.

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 Representative TREAT of Gardiner and
Representatives: BENEDIKT of Brunswick, CHARTRAND of Rockland, DAVIDSON of
Brunswick, GATES of Rockport, GREEN of Monmouth, HEESCHEN of Wilton, JOHNSON
of South Portland, JONES of Bar Harbor, KILKELLY of Wiscasset, O'NEAL of Limestone,
RICHARDSON of Portland, ROSEBUSH of East Millinocket, ROWE of Portland, SAMSON
of Jay, SAXL of Bangor, SAXL of Portland, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, SIMONEAU of
Thomaston, TRIPP of Topsham, WATSON of Farmingdale, WHEELER of Bridgewater,
Senators: BUSTIN of Kennebec, CLEVELAND of Androscoggin, MICHAUD of Penobscot.

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7508 is enacted to read:

§7508. Telecommunications links to public schools.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, each telephone utility shall install modern telecommunication links to public schools as follows. Upon the request of the governing board of a school administrative unit:

1. Elementary schools. A telephone utility shall install one modern telecommunication link to each elementary school within that school administrative unit for which the board requests installation; and

2. Secondary schools. A telephone utility shall install up to 2 modern telecommunication links to each secondary school within that school administrative unit for which the board requests installation.

A telephone utility may not charge a fee for the installation or maintenance of a modern telecommunication link required to be installed under this section that exceeds the direct costs of the installation or maintenance.

This section does not prohibit the installation and maintenance of additional telephone lines and any other telecommunications technologies in public schools in accordance with other applicable laws.

As used in this section, the terms "public school," "school administrative unit," "elementary school" and "secondary school" have the same meanings as defined in Title 20-A, section 1. As used in this section, the term "modern telecommunication link" means any telephone lines and associated technology that the governing board of a school administrative unit requests be installed pursuant to this section and that the telephone utility has the legal authority and technical capacity to install and maintain.

The governing board of a school administrative unit or a telephone utility may petition the commission to resolve any dispute arising under this section.

This section is repealed 90 days after the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

STATEMENT OF FACT

2

4 This bill requires telephone utilities to install and
6 maintain at cost modern telecommunication links to public
8 schools. The bill requires up to 2 links to be installed, upon
10 the request of a school board, to secondary schools and one link
to be installed, upon the request of a school board, to
elementary schools. The bill permits schools and telephone
utilities to petition the Public Utilities Commission to resolve
any disputes arising from these provisions.

12 The provisions of this bill are repealed 2 years from their
effective date.