

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1533

H.P. 1089

House of Representatives, May 17, 1995

**An Act to Require the Public Utilities Commission to Ensure
Telecommunications Service in Economic Development Areas.**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative DONNELLY of Presque Isle.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GOOLEY of Farmington, GUERRETTE of Pittston,
JOYCE of Biddeford.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7101, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

6 4. Commercial; industrial customers. In furtherance of the
8 policies set forth in this section, the commission is directed to
10 ensure that commercial and industrial customers located in
12 economic development areas can obtain, at rates comparable to
14 rates charged in more economically advantaged areas, any
16 telecommunications services available in those other areas. In
18 fulfilling its obligation under this subsection, the commission
20 shall:

22 A. Designate central offices within economic development
24 areas from which certain services must be made available;

26 B. Determine what services must be made available from
28 designated central offices to ensure that commercial and
30 industrial customers within the economic development areas
32 have access to telecommunications services comparable to
34 those available to customers in more economically advantaged
36 areas; and

38 C. Determine what, if any, incremental cost is associated
40 with ensuring that the services identified pursuant to
42 paragraph B are available at comparable rates, as defined by
44 the commission. The commission shall ensure, to the extent
46 possible, that costs incurred from the implementation of
48 this subsection are recovered from the users of
telecommunications services in this State as a whole and may
permit, at its discretion, the recovery of those costs
through charges on basic telephone service imposed on all
local exchange telephone customers in this State. To the
extent that services are offered by, and costs are incurred
by, entities other than the local exchange company serving
the economic development areas as of the effective date of
this subsection, the commission may permit the other entity
to recover those costs from a pool of funds established by
the commission for this purpose.

The authority of the commission to require that the services set
forth in this subsection be made available and to permit the
recovery of costs associated with those services pursuant to
paragraph C expires on December 31, 2001.

The commission shall implement a plan to achieve the objectives
of this subsection no later than February 29, 1996.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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4 This bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to ensure
6 that commercial and industrial customers located in economic
 development areas can obtain telecommunications services at rates
 comparable to rates charged in more economically advantaged areas.