

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 224

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H.P. 169

House of Representatives, January 16, 1997

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**An Act Regarding Charges Assessed against Owners of Sprinkler Systems.**

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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 CAMPBELL of Holden.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRAGDON of Bangor, FISHER of Brewer, FOSTER of Gray, GERRY of Auburn, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MACK of Standish, TOBIN of Dexter, Senator: RUHLIN of Penobscot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §6114** is enacted to read:

6 **§6114. Private fire protection charges**

8 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the  
context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the  
following meanings.

10 **A. "Backup capacity"** means utility capacity and facilities  
12 **that must be present in order for a private fire protection**  
14 **system to perform at designed output and that are in excess**  
**of facilities or capacity that must be present to meet other**  
**demands on the water utility system.**

16 **B. "Private fire protection service"** means service provided  
18 **by a water utility to a customer to support the operation of**  
**a private fire protection system.**

20 **C. "Private fire protection system"** means any privately  
22 **owned system designed to use water provided by a water**  
24 **utility for purposes of fire suppression that is not part of**  
**the utility's public fire protection service.**

26 **2. Fire protection charges.** A water utility may charge a  
28 **customer for private fire protection service only on the basis of**  
**actual water usage and may not impose or collect any private fire**  
30 **protection service rate that includes capital or maintenance**  
**costs associated with backup capacity.**

32 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill prohibits a water utility from charging customers  
36 with private fire protection systems, such as sprinklers, rates  
to recover the utility's backup capacity costs. Rates must be  
38 based on water usage.