

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 366

H.P. 302

House of Representatives, January 23, 1997

**An Act to Require Regular Disclosure of Low-cost Telephone Calling
Plans to Telephone Customers.**

Submitted by the Office of Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
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 JONES of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook and
Representatives: COLWELL of Gardiner, TAYLOR of Cumberland.

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

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

§7508. Reduced-rate intrastate services; notice

At least once every 6 months, a telephone utility providing intrastate toll services in this State shall include with the bills it sends to customers descriptions of plans or programs it currently offers for reduced-rate, intrastate, long-distance calling. The descriptions must include pricing information, time restrictions and information on eligibility for each program. At least once every 2 years, the utility shall indicate on each customer's bill the amount of savings, if any, that customer would have realized under all optional calling plans available for which the customer qualifies based on actual intrastate toll usage in the most recent month.

SUMMARY

Many telephone customers, particularly small commercial and residential customers, do not sign up for in-state toll-calling plans that are available from the State's telephone utilities. The telephone utilities generally do not publicize the availability of these cost-saving plans beyond a description of them in telephone directories. This bill requires telephone utilities to provide every 6 months a notice in monthly customer bills that describes these plans. The bill also requires telephone utilities, once every 24 months, to provide a statement to each customer of any potential savings for that customer if the customer had subscribed to an optional calling plan.