

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

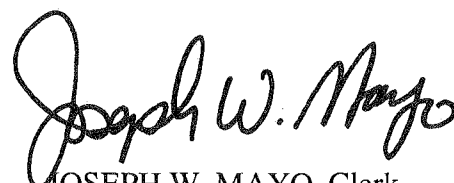
No. 735

H.P. 544

House of Representatives, February 4, 1997

**An Act to Permit the Public Utilities Commission to Suspend Rate
Regulation of Certain Telephone Utilities.**

Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative JONES of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Senator CAREY of Kennebec and
Representative TAYLOR of Cumberland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §307-A is enacted to read:**

6 **§307-A. Exemption for certain telephone utilities**

8 The commission may determine that all or specified portions
10 of the provisions of section 307 will not apply and the
12 commission will not exercise its powers of suspension and
14 investigation under section 310 for a telephone utility, a
16 specified group of telephone utilities or specified services
18 offered by one or a group of telephone utilities. The commission
20 may make this determination only if it finds that the utility or
22 group of utilities does not exercise significant power over
pricing in the markets for the specified services and that the
commission's determination will not result in unjust or
unreasonable rates for any customers in the markets for those
services. The commission may limit its determination to
specified geographic areas. A utility whose rates or terms and
conditions are subject to the exemptions permitted by this
section remains subject to other applicable provisions of this
Title and commission rules.

24 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill allows, but does not require, the Public Utilities
28 Commission to suspend rate regulation of telephone utilities that
30 have insignificant market control if that action would not result
32 in unjust or unreasonable rates for customers. Any such
telephone utility would still be required to file its rates with
the Public Utilities Commission, but those rates would not be
subject to prior commission approval.