

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 118TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1423, L.D. 1987, Bill, "An Act to Amend Review Criteria Used by the Public Utilities Commission"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3156, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 712, §6, is amended to read:

1. Benefits. The agreement, and any assistance in financing the agreement to be provided by the Finance Authority of Maine, will provide near-term substantial net benefits to ratepayers of the utility that will be reflected in rates paid by the electric utility's customers. The commission may consider whether alternative arrangements providing greater net benefits to ratepayers are reasonably likely to be available to the utility and may not issue a certificate if the commission concludes that such an alternative arrangement is reasonably likely to be available;

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3156, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 712, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Rate impacts. Near-term benefits to ratepayers will substantially exceed future adverse impacts estimated by the commission;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1146

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment preserves that portion of the bill that increases the time in which the Public Utilities Commission may issue or deny a certificate of approval for an electric rate stabilization agreement. This amendment replaces the portion of the bill dealing with the standard of review used by the commission in making its decision. Under this amendment, the commission must find that the agreement will provide substantial net benefits to ratepayers of the utility and must deny a certificate if it concludes that alternative arrangements providing greater net benefits to ratepayers are reasonably likely to be available to the utility.

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