MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 1989

H.P. 1425

House of Representatives, January 14, 1998

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Houlton Water Company.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CLUKEY of Houlton. Cosponsored by Senator MICHAUD of Penobscot.

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

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Sec. 1. P&SL 1905, c. 31, $\S1$, as amended by P&SL 1937, c. 14, $\S3$, is further amended by adding after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

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The Houlton Water Company is authorized to construct and operate fiber-optic cable telecommunications facilities or equivalent facilities and to provide natural gas service in those towns in which the company may provide electricity.

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Sec. 2. P&SL 1905, c. 31, §2, as amended by P&SL 1937, c. 14, §4, is further amended by adding after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

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The company is authorized to exercise the same powers for the purposes of constructing and operating fiber-optic cable telecommunications facilities or equivalent facilities and for providing natural gas service as for supplying electricity as set out in this section.

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Sec. 3. P&SL 1905, c. 31, §3 is amended to read:

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lines of wires along, upon and over streets, ways and bridges, and in constructing and laying lines of wires and conduits under any stream, river, street or highway, said the company shall-be is subject to the general laws of the state State applicable to corporations which that are authorized to make, generate, sell, distribute and supply electricity and to construct and operate natural gas and fiber-optic cable telecommunications service for

Sec. 3. May erect poles, etc.; limitations. In erecting poles and

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power, lighting, heating, manufacturing and other purposes, and shall-have has all the rights and powers of such corporations.

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SUMMARY

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This bill allows the Houlton Water Company to provide fiber-optic cable telecommunications service in the same manner as will be provided by Maine Public Service Company, whose facilities entirely surround Houlton Water Company's service territory and which expects to provide such service. It also authorizes Houlton Water Company to provide natural gas service should that fuel become available. The natural gas service would be subject to Public Utilities Commission regulation.

Will: