

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.S.

L.D. 2209

DATE: 3-18-98

(Filing No. H-948)

UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1575, L.D. 2209, "Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 302: Consumer Education Program; Electric Restructuring, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission"

Amend the resolve by striking out all of section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. Adoption with amendment. Resolved: The final adoption of Chapter 302: Consumer Education Program; Electric Restructuring, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Public Utilities Commission and submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, is authorized, but only if the rule is amended as follows:

1. Section 5, paragraph B is amended by striking the last sentence and new language is inserted providing that the commission must consider the recommendations of the advisory board in developing and implementing the consumer education plan and program; and

2. Section 6, paragraph B is amended by inserting the word "only" after the phrase "for informational purposes."

The Public Utilities Commission is not required to hold hearings or conduct other formal proceedings prior to finally adopting the rule in accordance with this resolve.'

Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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FISCAL NOTE

1997-98 **1998-99**

REVENUES

Other Funds \$200,000 \$600,000

Increasing the assessment on regulated utilities to cover the cost of the consumer education program will increase dedicated revenue collections. The estimated increase of dedicated revenue to the Public Utilities Commission Consumer Education Fund, established by the rules approved by this resolve, is \$200,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$600,000 in fiscal year 1998-99. The additional dedicated revenue is capped at \$600,000 in fiscal year 1999-2000 and \$200,000 in fiscal year 2000-01.

The resolve does not include authorization for the additional expenditures that the commission will need to make to establish the consumer education program. A legislative allocation will be required to authorize expenditures from the Public Utilities Commission Consumer Education Fund.'

SUMMARY

This amendment authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to finally adopt its standard offer rule, provided the rule is amended to provide that the commission must consider the recommendations of the advisory board in developing and implementing the consumer education program. It also adds a fiscal note to the resolve.