## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2140

H.P. 1496

House of Representatives, April 5, 1999

An Act to Enhance the Economic Security of Low-income Households with Respect to Utility Service.

(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 DAVIDSON of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CIANCHETTE of South Portland, DUNCAN of Presque Isle, ETNIER of Harpswell, LaVERDIERE of Wilton, ROSEN of Bucksport, ROWE of Portland, SCHNEIDER of Durham.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §4076-A is enacted to read:
\$4076-A. Special rate arrangements for eligible low-income
customers
The commission may approve rates or bill payment assistance programs for residential customers who have been certified as
eligible for state or federal fuel assistance that take into account the difficulty these customers have paying in full for
natural gas service or that target assistance to these customers in the most efficient manner. Any such rates or bill payment
assistance programs that have been approved by the commission are determined to be just and reasonable.
SUMMARY
This bill authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to
approve discount rates for low-income natural gas customers that already exist for electric and telephone customers who are certified eligible for welfare assistance.