

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2554

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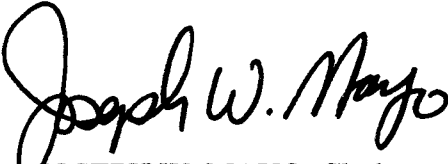
H.P. 1820

House of Representatives, February 8, 2000

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Utilities and Energy Arising from its State Government  
Evaluation Act Review of the Public Utilities Commission.**

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Reported by Representative DAVIDSON for the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §120**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 9, Pt. E,  
§22, is further amended to read:

6 **§120. Annual report**

8 The commission shall report annually, before February 1st,  
10 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
jurisdiction over public utilities on:

12 1. **Budget.** The commission's planned expenditures for the  
14 year and its use of funds in the previous year, including the  
expenditures from the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund  
16 as established pursuant to section 116; and

18 2. **Various fees.** The waiver, exemption, receipt and  
expenditure of any filing fees, expenses, reimbursements or fines  
20 collected under this Title, on a case-by-case basis.;

22 3. **Regional issues.** The commission's efforts undertaken in  
accordance with its authority under this Title to promote and  
protect consumer interests through participation in and  
presentations before regional entities and federal agencies with  
jurisdiction over regional marketplaces that affect the State's  
consumers. The commission must provide an assessment of staffing  
requirements to undertake these responsibilities; and

28 4. **Rural issues.** The commission's efforts undertaken in  
accordance with its authority under this Title to ensure that  
rural areas of this State are not disadvantaged as utility  
industries are restructured and competitive markets developed.  
The commission shall identify any rural issues that it has  
determined may require legislative action.

36 The joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
jurisdiction over utilities matters may report out legislation to  
any session of any Legislature on matters related to the  
restructuring of regulated utility industries and the creation or  
maintenance of competitive utility markets.

42 **SUMMARY**

44 This bill implements the recommendations of the Joint  
46 Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy arising from its State  
Government Evaluation Act review of the Public Utilities  
48 Commission. This bill requires the commission to provide to the  
committee annual reports on rural and regional issues related to  
50 the restructuring of utility industries and the creation of

2 competitive markets. In order to ensure that the committee has  
the ability to respond quickly and effectively to developments in  
4 the restructuring of utility industries, the committee is  
provided standing authorization to report out legislation on the  
6 restructuring of utility industries and the creation or  
maintenance of competitive markets.