

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 314

S.P. 87

In Senate, January 30, 2001

**An Act to Require Notice to Telephone Customers in Maine Prior to Price Increases.**

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Submitted by the Office of Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARPENTER of York.  
Cosponsored by Representative: SAVAGE of Buxton.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7307 is enacted to read:**

6 **§7307. Notice of intrastate toll rate changes**

8 **1. Notice required.** A telephone utility offering intrastate toll services may not increase or decrease the price for such services without first:

10 **A. Filing a tariff revision with the commission** establishing the new price and identifying with particularity the name, terms and conditions of service; and

12 **B. No less than one month prior to the change in price,** providing to each retail subscriber receiving intrastate toll service from that utility a notice, in the form of a bill insert or other written communication, identifying the former price for the service, the new price and the expected date of the price change.

14 **2. Failure to notify.** If a telephone utility does not provide to a customer written communication that complies with subsection 1, that customer is relieved of the obligation of making payment at a new price, if higher, until notice complying with subsection 1 notice is made.

16 **3. Rulemaking.** The commission shall adopt rules for the implementation of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

18 **SUMMARY**

20 **36** Currently, there are no provisions in Maine law requiring a telephone utility offering intrastate toll services to provide notice of an increase or decrease in price. This bill establishes such a requirement and directs the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules for its implementation.