

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 869

H.P. 669

House of Representatives, February 15, 2001

An Act to Establish the Lineworker Safety Act.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative GOOLEY of Farmington.
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Representatives: DUNCAN of Presque Isle, HATCH of Skowhegan, LaVERDIERE of
Wilton, RICHARD of Madison, TRACY of Rome, Senators: FERGUSON of Oxford, TREAT
of Kennebec, WOODCOCK of Franklin.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA c. 30** is enacted to read:

6 **CHAPTER 30**

8 **LINWORKER SAFETY ACT**

10 **§2121. Short title**

12 This chapter is known as and may be cited as the Lineworker Safety Act.

14 **§2122. Definitions**

16 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

18 1. **Lineworker.** "Lineworker" means a person who performs work on distribution and transmission lines. "Lineworker" includes an apprentice.

22 2. **Qualified lineworker.** "Qualified lineworker" means a person who, by virtue of training and experience, is capable of performing work on energized distribution and transmission systems. "Qualified lineworker" includes a first, 2nd or 3rd class lineworker.

28 **§2123. Minimum requirements for safety and health**

30 1. **Two qualified lineworkers required.** On energized conductors of more than 600 volts, when working aloft from a pole or working aloft from a bucket, a minimum of 2 qualified lineworkers must be assigned, present and on duty. In such cases, a minimum of 2 qualified lineworkers must be trained and proficient in current pole-top rescue procedures, first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

38 2. **Maximum number of consecutive hours worked.** No public utility or private contractor may require or permit a lineworker to work more than 17 consecutive hours without a minimum of 7 hours rest.

44 **§2124. Violation; penalty**

46 A public utility or private contractor that violates this chapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for the first violation; \$10,000 for the 2nd violation; and \$20,000 for the 3rd violation. Each subsequent violation carries a penalty of twice the immediately preceding penalty.

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill enacts the Lineworker Safety Act. This bill
8 requires that under certain potentially dangerous circumstances a
10 minimum of 2 qualified lineworkers be present and working. The
 bill also prohibits a public utility or private contractor from
 allowing a lineworker to work more than 17 consecutive hours
 without a 7-hour rest period. Finally, the bill imposes monetary
 penalties on utilities or contractors that violate this Act.