

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1059

S.P. 312

In Senate, February 22, 2001

An Act Concerning Private Line Extensions Provided by Central Maine Power Company.

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 TURNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative: McKENNEY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §716** is enacted to read:

4 **§716. Overhead line extensions; notice to Legislature**

6 The commission shall provide written and detailed notice to
8 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
10 jurisdiction over utilities matters of any proceeding in which it
12 proposes to examine or to consider revisions to a transmission
 and distribution utility's terms and conditions relating to
 single-phase overhead line extensions.

14 **Sec. 2. Private line extensions in Central Maine Power Company**
16 **service territory; Public Utilities Commission order voided.** The Public
18 Utilities Commission order of November 10, 1999 in Docket Number
20 99-042 is void and Central Maine Power Company's terms and
22 conditions relating to single-phase overhead line extensions in
24 effect prior to that order are reinstated and remain in effect
26 until the commission, in an appropriate proceeding undertaken
28 after the effective date of this Act, approves revisions to those
30 terms and conditions in accordance with this Act. The commission
 may open a proceeding and issue appropriate orders to clarify any
 terms and conditions reinstated by this Act to ensure consistency
 with this Act. If, after the effective date of this Act, the
 commission considers any substantive revisions to the reinstated
 terms and conditions, the commission may approve the revisions
 only if in its order it cites this Act and identifies specific
 changes in circumstances subsequent to the effective date of this
 Act that justify the revisions.

32 **Sec. 3. Compensation of builders of private line extensions.** The
34 Public Utilities Commission shall, by an appropriate order issued
36 no later than 90 days after the effective date of this Act, amend
38 Central Maine Power Company's terms and conditions to provide
40 that the company will connect to its system any single-phase
42 overhead line constructed by or at the expense of a customer if
44 that line meets all relevant location, safety and electrical
46 standards for connection to the system. The order shall
48 establish appropriate terms and conditions to ensure that if
 Central Maine Power Company acquires ownership of such a line,
 the company must pay the customer at whose expense the line was
 constructed full and fair compensation for the costs of
 construction and all reasonable repair and maintenance costs paid
 for by the customer prior to acquisition by Central Maine Power
 Company. The order may include further provisions necessary to
 carry out the purposes of this section. The terms and conditions
 and the commission order must cite this Act. After the
 establishment of such terms and conditions by

2 order of the commission in accordance with this section, the
terms and conditions may be revised in the normal course in
4 accordance with applicable laws and commission rules, but any
order of the commission approving a proposed revision that is
6 inconsistent with this section must cite this Act and identify
specific changes in circumstances subsequent to the effective
date of this Act that justify the inconsistency.

8
Sec. 4. Reimbursement. Central Maine Power Company shall
10 reimburse customers who were charged for line extensions pursuant
to the revised terms and conditions approved by the commission in
12 its order of November 10, 1999 in Docket Number 99-042. Within
30 days of the effective date of this Act, the Public Utilities
14 Commission shall open a proceeding to establish the mechanism by
which Central Maine Power Company will reimburse customers.
16 Costs incurred by Central Maine Power Company to reimburse
customers pursuant to this section, to pay for line extensions
18 and to reimburse customers pursuant to section 3 of this Act, are
just and reasonable expenses for rate-making purposes. The
20 commission shall determine the manner in which these costs may be
recovered by Central Maine Power Company through rates. The
22 commission may issue appropriate orders to accomplish the
purposes of this section.

24 26 SUMMARY

28 This bill does the following.

30 1. It voids the Public Utilities Commission order of
November 10, 1999 in Docket Number 99-042 and reinstates Central
32 Maine Power Company's terms and conditions relating to
single-phase overhead line extensions in effect prior to the
34 order.

36 2. It requires Central Maine Power Company to connect to a
single-phase overhead line constructed by or at the expense of a
38 customer if that line meets all relevant safety and electrical
standards for connection to the system. It also requires Central
40 Maine Power Company, if it acquires ownership of such line, to
pay the customer at whose expense the line was constructed full
42 and fair compensation for the costs of construction and all
reasonable repair and maintenance costs paid for by the customer
44 prior to acquisition by Central Maine Power Company.

46 3. It requires the commission to open a proceeding to
establish a mechanism under which Central Maine Power Company
48 reimburses customers who were charged for line extensions
pursuant to the revised terms and conditions approved by the
50 commission in its order of November 10, 1999 in Docket Number

99-042. It also requires the commission to determine how the
2 costs of such reimbursement and of future line extensions and of
reimbursing customers for the costs of line extensions paid for
4 by customers are to be recovered through rates.