

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 272, L.D. 343, Bill, "An Act To Reduce the Electric Bill of Persons Requiring Daily Use of Electric Oxygenators"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3104 is enacted to read:

§3104. Charges when electric oxygen pump used

The commission by rule shall establish a program consistent with this section to provide assistance to residential customers who for health reasons must use an electric oxygen pump.

1. Program benefits. The program must include a procedure whereby a person eligible under subsection 2 may apply to have the amount attributable to the cost of serving the electric oxygen pump, including both transmission and distribution utility and competitive service provider charges, removed from the person's bill.

The commission shall establish by rule an administratively simple and inexpensive method for determining the amount attributable to the cost of serving the electric oxygen pump that does not require special metering of the electricity used by the electric oxygen pump and that may involve a reasonable estimate of the amount based on the energy consumption rating of the electric oxygen pump.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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2. Eligibility. The program must provide the program benefits described in subsection 1 to any person:

A. Who provides documentation from a doctor that the person for health reasons needs an electric oxygen pump 8 hours a day, every day; and

B. Whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty line as defined in the Community Services Block Grant Act, 42 United States Code, Section 9902(2).

3. Cost recovery. The benefits provided under this section are available only to the extent funds are allocated by the Legislature to reimburse transmission and distribution utilities and competitive service providers for lost revenues. The commission shall establish by rule an administratively simple and inexpensive method for providing such reimbursement.

4. Rules. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utilities - Administrative Division

Initiative: Establishes a program to provide assistance to residential customers who for health reasons must use an electric oxygen pump.

Fund for a Healthy Maine	2003-04	2004-05
All Other	\$45,000	\$45,000
Fund for a Healthy Maine Total	\$45,000	\$45,000'

SUMMARY

This amendment narrows the application of the bill by adding an income eligibility requirement. The amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission to establish a program to provide assistance to any residential customer who for health reasons must use an electric oxygen pump and whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. Under the program, a customer who meets the eligibility requirements would be able to apply to have the cost of serving the electric oxygen pump removed from

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 272, L.D. 343

2 the customer's bill. The program is funded by allocation from
the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**



LD 343

**An Act to Reduce the Electric Bill of Persons Requiring Daily Use of
Electric Oxygenators**

LR 0912(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Utilities and Energy

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Minority Report

Fiscal Note

	2003-04	2004-05	Projections 2005-06	Projections 2006-07
Net Cost (Savings)				
Fund for a Healthy Maine	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
Fund for a Healthy Maine	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill as amended includes an allocation of \$45,000 from the Fund For A Healthy Maine in fiscal year 2003-04 and fiscal year 2004-05 to the Public Utilities Commission to provide assistance to residential customers who for health reasons must use an electric oxygen pump. The cost associated with adopting rules for this program can be absorbed by the Public Utilities Commission utilizing existing budgeted resources.