

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 775

H.P. 574

House of Representatives, February 18, 2003

**An Act To Clarify That All Companies Offering Telephone Services  
for Compensation, Including Switchless Resellers, Are Telephone  
Utilities**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLISS of South Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator HALL of Lincoln and  
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, BERRY of Belmont, GOODWIN of Pembroke.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §102. sub-§19,** as enacted by PL 1987, c.  
5 141, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

6 **19. Telephone utility.** "Telephone utility" includes every  
7 person, its lessees, trustees, receivers or trustees appointed by  
8 any court, ~~owning, controlling, operating or managing any~~ that  
9 provides telephone line service for compensation ~~within~~ inside  
10 this State.

11 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §102. sub-§18-A** is enacted to read:

12 **18-A. Telephone service.** "Telephone service" is the  
13 offering of a service that transmits communications by telephone,  
14 whether the communications are accomplished with or without the  
15 use of transmission wires.

16 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §102. sub-§20,** as enacted by PL 1987, c.  
17 141, Pt. A, §6, is repealed.

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21 **SUMMARY**

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23 **24** This bill clarifies that all persons offering telephone  
25 services for compensation, including so-called "switchless  
26 resellers," are telephone utilities. The bill revises the  
27 definition of "telephone utility" by specifying that a telephone  
28 utility offers "telephone service" rather than having to own,  
29 control, operate, or manage a "telephone line" itself;  
30 establishes a new definition of "telephone service"; and repeals  
31 the definition of "telephone line."  
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