

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**NOTS**

L.D. 637

DATE: 1/27/06

(Filing No. H-740)

**UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

*Minority*

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
122ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 470, L.D. 637, Bill, "An Act To Allow Qualified Health Centers To Obtain Telecommunications Education Access Funding"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, To Address the Telecommunications Needs of Federally Qualified Health Centers'**

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 1. Needs assessment; application for federal funds. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission shall allocate \$75,000 from the state universal service fund, established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7104, to hire an independent consultant to conduct a needs assessment regarding the telecommunications needs of federally qualified health centers, as defined in 42 United States Code, Section 1395x, subsection (aa)(4), and to assist federally qualified health centers in applying for funding from the federal Universal Service Fund under the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care program. The commission may require contributions to the state universal service fund in an amount necessary to collect the \$75,000 to carry out the requirements of this section; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission shall, no later than March 1, 2007, report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

**R.O.S.**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 470, L.D. 637

2 telecommunications matters the results of the needs assessment  
and applications for federal funds under section 1 and any  
4 recommendations for further action to address the  
telecommunications needs of federally qualified health centers.  
6 The report must include any necessary legislation to implement  
the recommendations of the commission; and be it further

8 **Sec. 3. Authority to report out bill. Resolved:** That, after review  
of the report required under section 2, the joint standing  
10 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
telecommunications matters may report out a bill relating to the  
12 subject matter of this resolve to the First Regular Session of  
the 123rd Legislature.'

14  
16 **SUMMARY**

18 This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The  
amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment  
20 directs the Public Utilities Commission to allocate \$75,000 from  
the state universal service fund to hire a consultant to conduct  
22 a needs assessment and to assist federally qualified health  
centers in applying for funds from the federal Universal Service  
24 Fund to meet their telecommunications services needs. The  
amendment requires the Public Utilities Commission to report, no  
26 later than March 1, 2007, to the joint standing committee of the  
Legislature having jurisdiction over telecommunications matters  
28 on the results of the needs assessment and applications for  
federal funds. The amendment authorizes the committee to report  
30 out a bill on this subject to the First Regular Session of the  
123rd Legislature after review of the report.

32  
34 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)



# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 637

LR 1207(02)

## An Act To Allow Qualified Health Centers To Obtain Telecommunications Education Access Funding

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A'

Committee: Utilities and Energy

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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### Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - Other Funds

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation authorizes the use of \$75,000 from the Maine Universal Service Fund to pay for a consultant and to assist federally qualified health centers in applying for federal funding. It also authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to collect the \$75,000 to implement this resolve. Funds contributed to the state universal service fund are not state allocated funds and are administered by an outside entity. Costs associated with the additional requirements of the Public Utilities Commission can be absorbed by the commission utilizing existing budgeted resources.