

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 789

S.P. 256

In Senate, February 15, 2005

An Act Pertaining to Internet Services

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SULLIVAN of York.

Cosponsored by Representative BLISS of South Portland and

Senators: BARTLETT of Cumberland, COWGER of Kennebec, President EDMONDS of Cumberland, MITCHELL of Kennebec, WESTON of Waldo, Representatives: DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, FITTS of Pittsfield, FLETCHER of Winslow.

2 **Emergency preamble. Whereas**, acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4 **Whereas**, high-speed Internet services will provide access to
6 global energy and marketing and this will be a benefit to the
economy of the State; and

8 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
10 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
12 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

16 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7101. sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1995, c.
18 631, §2 and affected by §5, is amended to read:

20 **4. Information access.** The Legislature further declares
and finds that ~~computer-based--information~~ high-speed Internet
22 services and related information networks are important economic
and educational resources that should be available to all Maine
24 citizens at affordable rates. It is the policy of the State that
affordable access to ~~these~~ high-speed Internet services and
26 related information services networks that require a computer and
rely on the use of the telecommunications network should be made
28 available in all communities of the State without regard to
geographic location.

30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
32 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

34 **SUMMARY**

36 The bill clarifies Maine telecommunications policy, as
enacted in 1995, to ensure that the Public Utilities Commission
38 will pursue the expansion of affordable, high-speed Internet
service throughout the State.