

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 824

H.P. 583

House of Representatives, February 16, 2005

**An Act To Allow the Public Utilities Commission To Consider the  
Health of Maine's Manufacturing Economy in the Design of Electric  
Rates and Energy Policy**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FLETCHER of Winslow.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3152, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1999, c.  
5 398, Pt. A, §57 and affected by §§104 and 105, is further amended  
6 to read:

7 **1. Increased efficiency.** The Legislature declares and  
8 finds that improvements in transmission and distribution utility  
9 rate design and related regulatory programs have great potential  
10 for reducing the cost of electric utility services to consumers,  
11 for encouraging energy conservation and efficient use of existing  
12 facilities and for minimizing the need for expensive new electric  
13 transmission capacity. It is the purpose of this chapter to:

14 A. Require the commission to relate transmission and  
15 distribution rates more closely to the costs of providing  
16 transmission and distribution service; and

17 C. Require the commission to consider the ability of  
18 low-income residential customers to pay in full for electric  
19 services as transmission and distribution rates are  
20 redesigned consistent with these policies; and

21 D. Authorize the commission to consider the health of the  
22 State's manufacturing economy in determining transmission  
23 and distribution utility rate design and the allocation of  
24 stranded costs and in the development of state, regional and  
25 federal energy policy proceedings.

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29 **SUMMARY**

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32 This bill allows, but does not require, the Public Utilities  
33 Commission to consider the health of the State's manufacturing  
34 economy in Public Utilities Commission proceedings affecting  
35 utility rate design or the allocation of stranded costs and in  
36 state, regional and federal energy policy proceedings.