

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 849

H.P. 600

House of Representatives, February 16, 2005

**An Act To Require That Certain Water Districts Install Sand
Filtration Systems To Ensure the Safety and Purity of the Water
Supply**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MOORE of Standish.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CRESSEY of Cornish, MAREAN of Hollis, Senator:
DIAMOND of Cumberland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §6419** is enacted to read:

6 **§6419. Installation of sand filtration system**

8 A water district that serves more than 45,000 customers
10 shall install a sand filtration system to ensure the safety of
12 the water supply. A water district subject to this section may
14 not raise consumer water rates in order to fund the purchase or
installation of the sand filtration system. In order to fund the
purchase or installation of the sand filtration system, a water
district subject to this section must sell any land that it owns
that is not essential to its provision of water district services.

16 **Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission review.** The Public Utilities
18 Commission shall examine the particular issues presented by water
20 districts that serve more than 45,000 customers, including, but
22 not limited to, issues associated with water safety, water supply
24 and competing responsibilities regarding the collection,
26 distribution, treatment and disposal of water. In conducting its
28 review, the commission shall consider whether it is in the best
interest of the customers of those water districts and the people
of the State to require the reorganization of such water
districts into separate entities with management and oversight
over separate functions. The Public Utilities Committee shall
report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities
by January 10, 2006.

30
32 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill requires water districts that serve more than
36 45,000 customers to install a sand filtration system and
38 prohibits such water districts from raising rates to consumers in
40 order to pay for the filtration system. This bill prohibits a
42 water district from raising its rates to fund the sand filtration
44 system, and instead requires that such a water district sell land
that is not essential to its provision of water district
services. This bill also directs the Public Utilities Commission
to review whether such water districts should be organized as
separate entities performing separate functions such as water
distribution and water treatment.