

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1  
2 Date: 06-01-07

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3 UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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5 STATE OF MAINE

6 SENATE

7 123RD LEGISLATURE

8 FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Majority

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 580, L.D. 1675, Bill, "An Act To  
10 Protect Network Neutrality"

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

12 **'Resolve, Regarding Full, Fair and Nondiscriminatory Access to the Internet'**

13 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and  
14 inserting the following:

15 **Preamble.** Whereas, the Legislature finds that the development and continued  
16 enhancement of advanced communications technology in the State is vital to economic  
17 development; and

18 **Whereas,** full, fair and nondiscriminatory access to the Internet is critical to the  
19 ability of Maine citizens to participate in the information economy and is an important  
20 element of citizens' access to information necessary to their roles as informed participants  
21 in our nation's democracy; and

22 **Whereas,** regulation of the Internet is generally viewed as principally a matter  
23 within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government; and

24 **Whereas,** the interests of the State of Maine and its citizens must be vigorously  
25 protected; now, therefore, be it

26 **Sec. 1. Monitoring state and federal activity relating to Internet access**  
27 **regulations. Resolved:** That the Office of the Public Advocate shall take the  
28 following actions to monitor and review state and federal activity on issues relating to  
29 full, fair and nondiscriminatory access to the Internet. The Office of the Public Advocate  
30 shall:

31 1. Evaluate the actions of the Federal Communications Commission, the United  
32 States Congress and other appropriate agencies of government with respect to ensuring

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 that citizens' rights to full, fair and nondiscriminatory access to the Internet are not  
2 impeded;

3 2. Monitor the Federal Communication Commission's inquiry into broadband  
4 industry practices, FCC-07-31, WC Docket No. 07-52;

5 3. Collect information on legislative and regulatory actions of other states on these  
6 issues;

7 4. Review the State's telecommunications and technology policies, including the  
8 ConnectME Authority established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A,  
9 section 9203, and evaluate the extent to which those policies are encouraging adequate  
10 investment in technology infrastructure to support a strong Internet system and continued  
11 expansion of broadband access in this State; and

12 5. Review the extent of the State's authority to protect the rights of users of the  
13 Internet in the State to full, fair and nondiscriminatory access to the Internet; and be it  
14 further

15 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than February 1, 2008, the Office of the  
16 Public Advocate shall submit a report summarizing the results of its activities under  
17 section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy.'

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. The amendment directs the Office  
20 of the Public Advocate to take several actions to monitor state and federal activity  
21 relating to full and fair access to the Internet. The amendment requires the Office of the  
22 Public Advocate to submit a report summarizing the results of its activities to the Joint  
23 Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by February 1, 2008.

24 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
25 **(See attached)**



# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1675

LR 1217(02)

**An Act To Protect Network Neutrality**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"**

**Committee: Utilities and Energy**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds