

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2008

Legislative Document

No. 2135

S.P. 815

January 8, 2008

An Act Regarding Certain Activities of Electric and Gas Utilities

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BROMLEY of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative BLISS of South Portland and Senators: DIAMOND of Cumberland, MARRACHÉ of Kennebec, MARTIN of Aroostook, MITCHELL of Kennebec, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representative: EBERLE of South Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §2523** is enacted to read:

3 **§2523. Notice to disconnect vulnerable systems and equipment**

4 A consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility, a large, investor-owned
5 transmission and distribution utility or a small, investor-owned transmission and
6 distribution utility, as defined in section 3201, subsections 6, 12 and 16, respectively,
7 shall make reasonable efforts to advise customers of those utilities to disconnect systems,
8 equipment and devices that use electricity that may be vulnerable to damage during
9 testing, repair or replacement of utility equipment before that utility performs that testing,
10 repair or replacement of utility equipment.

11 **Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission to study statutes and rules governing**
12 **electric utilities and report.** The Public Utilities Commission shall study the statutes
13 and rules governing the rights and responsibilities of electric utilities and consumers
14 when electric utilities are testing, repairing or replacing utility equipment and report to
15 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters
16 no later than November 5, 2008. The Public Utilities Commission shall include in its
17 report recommendations regarding how to improve these statutes and rules. The joint
18 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters may report
19 out legislation regarding the report in this section to the First Regular Session of the
20 124th Legislature.

21 **Sec. 3. Public Utilities Commission to amend rules regarding public**
22 **awareness of electric utility work.** The Public Utilities Commission shall amend its
23 rules governing electric utilities to require electric utilities to undertake a program to
24 increase public awareness of the rights and responsibilities of electric utilities and
25 consumers when electric utilities are testing, repairing or replacing utility equipment.

26 **Sec. 4. Public Utilities Commission to amend rules governing gas utilities.**
27 The Public Utilities Commission shall amend its rules governing gas utilities to require a
28 gas utility to provide notice to all owners and tenants of property within 500 feet of an
29 excavation performed by a gas utility or an agent of that utility at least 2 business days
30 before the excavation. The notice must contain the type and location of the excavation
31 activity and must be made in writing or by telephone.

32 **Sec. 5. Public Utilities Commission to study statutes and rules governing**
33 **gas utilities and report.** The Public Utilities Commission shall study the statutes and
34 rules governing the protection of public safety as it relates to gas utilities and report to the
35 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters no
36 later than November 5, 2008. The Public Utilities Commission shall include in its report
37 recommendations regarding how to improve these statutes and rules. The joint standing
38 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters may report out
39 legislation regarding the report in this section to the First Regular Session of the 124th
40 Legislature.

