

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 850

H.P. 585

House of Representatives, March 5, 2009

An Act To Ensure Local Broadband Coverage

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Speaker PINGREE of North Haven.
Cosponsored by Senator DAMON of Hancock and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, DILL of Cape Elizabeth, HINCK of Portland, KENT of
Woolwich, MILLER of Somerville, PIOTTI of Unity, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, Senator:
SHERMAN of Aroostook.

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §9216 is enacted to read:

§9216. Rulemaking; broadband services

The commission may adopt rules to require a communications service provider that is providing broadband services within at least 50% of a municipality's geographic area to expand its broadband services to all of the geographic area within that municipality. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill gives the Public Utilities Commission the authority to adopt rules to require a communications service provider that is providing broadband coverage within at least 50% of a municipality's geographic area to expand its broadband coverage to all of the geographic area within that municipality.