

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2010

Legislative Document

No. 1644

H.P. 1172

House of Representatives, December 23, 2009

An Act To Require That a Utility Company Notify the Owner of Property prior to Disconnecting Services

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 21, 2009. Referred to the Committee on Utilities and Energy pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PILON of Saco.
Cosponsored by Senator BLISS of Cumberland and
Representatives: BEAUDETTE of Biddeford, HINCK of Portland, MARTIN of Eagle Lake,
Speaker PINGREE of North Haven, RUSSELL of Portland, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, Senators:
HOBBINS of York, SIMPSON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §704, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 398, Pt. A, §18
3 and affected by §§104 and 105, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 **1. Residential customers.** The commission shall adopt rules after a hearing
5 concerning the termination or disconnection of a residential customer's service by a
6 transmission and distribution, gas, water or telephone utility of the State. Rules adopted
7 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
8 subchapter 2-A. These rules must apply generally to all such utilities within the
9 commission's jurisdiction and must provide:

10 A. That a utility must provide adequate written notice to the residential customer that
11 the customer's utility bill has not been paid and a notice of the prospective
12 termination or disconnection and of the customer's right, prior to disconnection, to
13 enter into reasonable installment payment arrangements with that utility, to settle any
14 dispute concerning the proposed disconnection at an informal hearing with that utility
15 and to appeal the results of that utility's decision to the commission;

16 B. That there may be no termination or disconnection during a limited medical
17 emergency;

18 C. A just and reasonable procedure regarding reconnections of utility service and
19 deposit requirements; and

20 D. That, if the residential customer whose service is to be terminated or disconnected
21 is a tenant of leased or rented property, a utility must notify the property owner or
22 manager prior to disconnection.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules requiring a utility to
25 notify a landlord when residential utility service of a tenant is to be terminated or
26 disconnected.