

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 668

H.P. 498

House of Representatives, February 17, 2011

An Act To Improve Regional Transmission Organization Responsiveness

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative HINCK of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CRAY of Palmyra, HAYES of Buckfield, Senators: HOBBS of York, JACKSON of Aroostook, PATRICK of Oxford, THIBODEAU of Waldo.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3218** is enacted to read:

3 **§3218. Regional transmission organizations**

4 **1. Investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities.** Beginning January 1,
5 2013, an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility must be a member of a
6 regional transmission organization under subsection 2.

7 **2. Regional transmission organization.** For purposes of this section, a regional
8 transmission organization must:

9 A. Conduct itself in compliance with Title 1, chapter 13, publish an agenda for each
10 meeting prior to the meeting and keep and publish minutes of each meeting;

11 B. Be governed by a board of at least 3 members elected by a public nomination and
12 election process;

13 C. Guarantee representation of residential, commercial and industrial consumers on
14 the board in paragraph B; and

15 D. Certify that the rates and actions of its member investor-owned transmission and
16 distribution utilities are just and reasonable to their customers.

17 **3. Conformance.** An investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that is not
18 a member of a regional transmission organization or is a member of a regional
19 transmission organization that does not conform to the requirements of subsection 2 must:

20 A. Join a conforming regional transmission organization;

21 B. Reform the nonconforming regional transmission organization to conform to the
22 requirements of subsection 2; or

23 C. Form a new regional transmission organization that conforms to the requirements
24 of subsection 2.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill requires that, beginning January 1, 2013, investor-owned transmission and
27 distribution utilities be members of a regional transmission organization meeting specific
28 organizational requirements, including compliance with laws governing public records
29 and proceedings, using a public nomination process in selecting board members,
30 guaranteeing consumer representation on its governing board and certifying that its rates
31 and actions are just and reasonable to consumers.