



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 801

S.P. 245

In Senate, March 1, 2011

An Act To Authorize the Public Utilities Commission To Require That Transmission or Distribution Lines Be Placed Underground

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

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR. Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HILL of York. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3132-A is enacted to read:

3 §3132-A. Placement of lines underground

4 <u>Upon petition by a customer of a transmission and distribution utility, the</u> 5 <u>commission shall open a proceeding to determine whether to order a transmission or</u> 6 <u>distribution line to be placed underground. The commission shall order that a</u> 7 <u>transmission or distribution line be placed underground if the commission finds that the</u> 8 <u>public health, safety or welfare would be enhanced by such placement. The commission</u> 9 <u>must allow a transmission and distribution utility to recover the actual costs of complying</u> 10 <u>with the commission's order to place a line underground.</u>

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SUMMARY

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission, on petition of a customer of a transmission and distribution utility, to open a proceeding to determine whether to order a transmission or distribution line to be placed underground. The commission must order that a transmission or distribution line be placed underground if the commission finds that the public health, safety or welfare would be enhanced by such placement. The commission is required to allow a transmission and distribution utility to recover the actual costs of complying with the commission's order to place a line underground.