

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/26/12

**ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
125TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1387, L.D. 1875, Bill, "An Act To Provide Transparency in Electricity Pricing for Maine Ratepayers"

Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 2 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 10 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "process" the following: 'or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer'

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph A in the 2nd line (page 1, line 27 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "process" the following: 'or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

**Sec. 4. Transparency in electricity rates and assessments.** The Public Utilities Commission shall develop information useful to electricity ratepayers regarding the costs and effects of state policies on electricity ratepayers. The commission and the Office of the Public Advocate shall post the information on their publicly accessible websites. The commission shall also examine means by which transmission and distribution utilities may inform customers of the information developed and posted by the commission. The commission shall report on its actions under this section together with any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February 15, 2013. The committee may report out a bill relating to the commission's report to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.'

**SUMMARY**

This amendment provides that the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate must develop their budgets using a zero-based budgeting process or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer. It also removes from the bill the provisions relating to notices of state and federal charges and assessments and replaces it with a requirement that the Public Utilities Commission develop information useful to electricity ratepayers regarding the costs and effects of state policies on

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 electricity ratepayers. The commission and the Office of the Public Advocate must post  
2 the information on their publicly accessible websites. The commission is also directed to  
3 examine means by which transmission and distribution utilities may inform customers of  
4 the information developed. The commission is directed to report on its actions, including  
5 any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
6 jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February 15, 2013. The  
7 committee is authorized to report out a bill relating to the commission's report to the First  
8 Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1875

LR 2793(02)

**An Act To Provide Transparency in Electricity Pricing for Maine Ratepayers**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-827)**  
**Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology**  
**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill provides that the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate must develop their budgets using a zero-based budgeting process or other method directed by the State Budget Officer. It also requires the Public Utilities Commission to develop information useful to electric ratepayers regarding the costs and effects of state policies on electric taxpayers, with the information being posted by the Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate on their publicly available websites. The Commission is also required to examine ways by which transmission and distribution utilities may inform customers of the information developed. The Commission is required to report on its actions, including any recommendations, to the Legislature by February 15, 2013. Any costs to the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate can be absorbed within existing resources.