

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/5/13

(Filing No. H-352)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 959, L.D. 1342, Bill, "An Act To Ensure Just and Reasonable Sewer Utility Rates"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Authorize the Public Advocate To Mediate Disputes Related to Rates for Sewer Service'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1714 is enacted to read:

§1714. Sewer rate mediation services

Notwithstanding section 1710, the Public Advocate may provide mediation services for disputes regarding rate changes between a sewer district as defined in Title 38, section 1251 and its customers. The Public Advocate may charge reasonable fees for these services. Any fee must be charged evenly between a sewer district and its customers participating in a mediation.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1252, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 466, §13, is amended to read:

1. Adoption of new rates. Prior to the adoption of a new rate schedule, the trustees shall hold a public hearing regarding the proposed rate schedule. The trustees shall publish the proposed rates and notice of the hearing not less than once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the district not less than 7 days prior to the hearing. The district shall mail to each ratepayer a notice of the public hearing and the proposed new rate at least 14 days prior to the hearing. The notice must include a statement describing the amount of the rate change, the percentage change for each customer class and the customer's right to request information relating to the present and proposed rates. The sewer district shall maintain adequate records to provide justification for the proposed rate and any rate set by the sewer district.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1342

LR 1744(02)

An Act To Ensure Just and Reasonable Sewer Utility Rates

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-352)

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds
Potential current biennium revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) is given the authority to mediate disputes between a sewer district and its customers regarding sewer rate increases. The bill allows the OPA to charge a reasonable fee as compensation for the services rendered. The amount of any cost or revenue increase cannot be determined at this time.