

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1628

S.P. 619

In Senate, December 23, 2013

An Act To Require a Timely Response by a Gas Company to a Municipal Request for Service Expansion

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

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 23, 2013. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative THERIAULT of Madawaska and
Senators: MILLETT of Cumberland, PATRICK of Oxford, VALENTINO of York,
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, DILL of Old Town, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth,
KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, MacDONALD of Boothbay.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §4713** is enacted to read:

3 **§4713. Municipal request for expansion**

4 A municipality may request that a natural gas utility build a pipeline extension in
5 order to expand service within the boundary of that municipality. If the municipality is
6 within the service territory of the natural gas utility as determined by the commission, the
7 municipality and the natural gas utility must meet the requirements of this section. For
8 purposes of this section, "natural gas utility" means an intrastate natural gas pipeline
9 utility or a gas utility other than a gas utility or entity owning or operating a private
10 natural gas pipeline over which the commission has limited jurisdiction pursuant to
11 section 4702-A or 4517.

12 **1. Requirements.** A request by a municipality for a pipeline extension under this
13 section must be in writing. If a natural gas utility receives a written request for an
14 extension, the natural gas utility must respond to the request in writing within 6 months.
15 The response must state whether or not the natural gas utility will build the extension and
16 the time frame within which any extension will be completed. If the natural gas utility
17 requires any financial contribution from the municipality in order to complete the
18 extension, the response must provide justification to the municipality for the amount of
19 financial contribution required.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill requires a natural gas utility to respond within 6 months to a municipality's
22 request for the natural gas utility to build a pipeline extension within that municipality if
23 that municipality is within the natural gas utility's service territory.

24 If the natural gas utility requires a financial contribution for the construction, the
25 natural gas utility must provide justification to the municipality for the amount required.