

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 372

H.P. 281

House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

**An Act To Increase the Safety of Municipal Residents by Allowing
Municipalities To Address Downed Wires in Extended Power
Outages**

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and
Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, BAILEY of Saco, BERRY of Bowdoinham,
DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, HANDY of Lewiston, HEPLER of Woolwich, TEPLER of
Topsham, Senator: CARSON of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3111** is enacted to read:

3 **§3111. Extended power outages**

4 In the event of a power outage of 5 or more days, a municipality may hire
5 appropriately licensed professionals to address power, telephone and similar lines that
6 have been felled by weather events and that are preventing access to roadways within the
7 municipality. A municipality's costs pursuant to this section must be paid by the
8 municipality, but the municipality may apply to receive compensation from the local
9 electric utility, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine
10 Emergency Management Agency, the United States Department of Homeland Security,
11 Federal Emergency Management Agency or another funding source.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill allows a municipality, in the event of a power outage of 5 or more days, to
14 hire appropriately licensed professionals to address power, telephone and similar lines
15 that have been felled by weather events and that are preventing access to roadways within
16 the municipality. It allows a municipality to apply to receive compensation from the
17 local electric utility, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management,
18 Maine Emergency Management Agency, the United States Department of Homeland
19 Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency or another funding source.