

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 834

H.P. 608

House of Representatives, February 14, 2019

An Act To Establish Minimum Service Standards for Electric Utilities

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, DODGE of Belfast, MEYER of Eliot, RYKERSON of Kittery, Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3106** is enacted to read:

3 **§3106. Utility service standards**

4 The commission by rule shall establish service standards for transmission and
5 distribution utilities in accordance with this section.

6 **1. Service interruption reporting.** The commission shall adopt rules that require
7 transmission and distribution utilities to track and report service interruptions. The rules
8 must include but are not limited to requirements for the following:

9 A. Record keeping regarding interruptions to service affecting the distribution
10 system of the utility; and

11 B. Reporting service interruption information to the commission.

12 **2. Minimum service standards; corrective action requirements.** The commission
13 shall adopt rules governing standards and requirements regarding service interruption
14 rates. The rules must establish:

15 A. A method for calculating the statewide average service interruption rate; and

16 B. Requirements for corrective actions by a transmission and distribution utility if
17 that utility's service interruption rate exceeds the statewide average, calculated
18 pursuant to paragraph A, by 50% or more. Requirements must include, but are not
19 limited to, submission of a corrective action plan and annual status reports on
20 corrective actions implemented for 3 years following submission of the plan.

21 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
22 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill proposes to establish service interruption standards and require transmission
25 and distribution utilities that do not meet these standards to take corrective action. The
26 bill directs the Public Utilities Commission to require, by rule, transmission and
27 distribution utilities to keep records and report service interruptions to the commission. It
28 also requires a utility that experiences service interruptions at a rate that exceeds the
29 statewide average service interruption rate by 50% or more to submit a plan for,
30 implement and track corrective actions to address the service interruptions.