

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4-12-19

L.D. 1003

(Filing No. H-101)

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ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 745, L.D. 1003, Bill, "An Act To Ensure Accurate Explanations of Electric Bills"

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

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

§3106. Consumer protections; bill information

The commission by rule shall establish customer bill information requirements for investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities that:

1. Historical rate information. Require investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to include, once per year, as an insert or attachment to customer bills, an informational chart produced by the commission that displays a 10-year history of transmission, distribution and standard-offer service rates available to the customer's rate class, along with a statement of the total percentage change in transmission, distribution and standard-offer service rates over the 10-year period. The commission shall post the informational charts produced pursuant to this subsection on the commission's publicly accessible website;

2. Consumer assistance. Require a customer bill issued by an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to display clearly and prominently the toll-free telephone number for the commission's consumer assistance and safety division and a statement of the consumer assistance services available by calling the division; and

3. Correction of misleading information. Establish a process by which, if the commission finds that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility has included on customer bills, or inserts or attachments to customer bills, information that is misleading, deceptive or inaccurate, the transmission and distribution utility is required to provide to customers a statement that corrects the misleading, deceptive or inaccurate information that was disseminated. Upon request of the Public Advocate, the commission shall investigate the truth and accuracy of information included on customer bills, or inserts or attachments to customer bills.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

3 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
4 section number to read consecutively.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment requires the Public Utilities
7 Commission to adopt rules to do the following:

8 1. Require investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to provide
9 customers annually, as an insert or attachment to customer bills, an informational chart
10 showing a 10-year history of transmission, distribution and standard-offer service rates
11 available to the customer's rate class, along with a statement of the total percentage
12 change in those rates over the 10-year period;

13 2. Require a customer bill issued by an investor-owned transmission and distribution
14 utility to display clearly and prominently the toll-free telephone number for the
15 commission's consumer assistance and safety division and a statement of the consumer
16 assistance services available by calling the division; and

17 3. Establish a process for the commission, upon finding that an investor-owned
18 transmission and distribution utility has distributed information to customers that is
19 misleading, deceptive or inaccurate, to require the transmission and distribution utility to
20 provide customers a statement that corrects the misleading, deceptive or inaccurate
21 information.

22 The amendment also requires the commission to post informational charts showing a
23 10-year history of electricity rate components on the commission's website.

24 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

25 **(See attached)**



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1003

LR 2230(02)

An Act To Ensure Accurate Explanations of Electric Bills

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *(ACH-101)*

Committee: Energy Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Public Utilities Commission as a result of changes to rules regarding information contained on billing notices to customers from an investor-owned electric transmission and distribution utility are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.