

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 848

H.P. 616

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

An Act To Increase High-speed Internet In Rural Maine

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill would expand high-speed Internet access in rural communities in the State by
6 creating incentives for companies to expand their services to those communities. It would
7 expand the definition of "rural" to include specific levels not included in the federal
8 definition. Each level would create more incentives for companies to connect to the most
9 rural areas of the State. It would propose 4 tiers for populations under 2,500 people:

- 10 1. Rural tier 1: 2,000-2,499;
- 11 2. Rural tier 2: 1,500-1,999;
- 12 3. Rural tier 3: 1,000-1,499; and
- 13 4. Rural tier 4: fewer than 1,000.

14 Tax breaks would be offered to companies to help offset the costs of expanding to the
15 rural areas, which would become available once 90% of the citizens of a community are
16 connected to high-speed Internet service.