

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1847

Date: 3-28-22

(Filing No. H-862)

MINORITY
ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1368, L.D. 1847, "An Act To Prohibit a Public Utility from Terminating or Disconnecting Service to a Public Safety Facility without Advance Notice and Approval"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Regarding a Public Utility's Termination or Disconnection of Service to a Public Safety Facility without Advance Notice and Approval'

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, continuous utility services are essential to the operation of Maine's public safety facilities; and

Whereas, the purpose of this legislation is to ensure that the termination or disconnection of a public safety facility's utility service does not pose a risk to public safety; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §704, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Public safety facility customers. A public utility may terminate or disconnect utility services for a public safety facility, as defined in Title 30-A, section 5222, subsection 14-A, for nonpayment of rates, fees or charges if the termination or disconnection is in accordance with rules adopted by the commission. The commission shall adopt rules governing the termination or disconnection of utility services for a public safety facility for

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 nonpayment of rates, fees or charges. The rules must establish a process for termination or
2 disconnection reasonably designed to ensure adequate public safety. Rules adopted
3 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
4 subchapter 2-A.'

5 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

6 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
7 takes effect when approved.'

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

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment requires the Public Utilities
12 Commission to engage in rulemaking regarding terminations or disconnections of utility
13 services for public safety facilities. The commission's rules must establish a process
14 designed to ensure adequate public safety. The amendment adds an emergency preamble
15 and clause.

16 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
17 (See attached)



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1847

LR 2122(03)

An Act To Prohibit a Public Utility from Terminating or Disconnecting Service to a Public Safety Facility without Advance Notice and Approval

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment (KH-862)

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 due to required rulemaking regarding terminations or disconnections of public safety facilities are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.