

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

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Legislative Document

No. 1847

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H.P. 1368

House of Representatives, December 22, 2021

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

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 20, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.  
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and  
Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators: KEIM of Oxford,  
MAXMIN of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §102, sub-§12-B** is enacted to read:

3 **12-B. Public safety facility.** "Public safety facility" has the same meaning as in Title  
4 30-A, section 5222, subsection 14-A.

5 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §719** is enacted to read:

6 **§719. Termination of utility services for public safety facilities**

7 The following provisions apply to termination or disconnection of a public safety  
8 facility's utility service.

9 **1. Termination.** A public utility may not terminate or disconnect a public safety  
10 facility's utility service unless the public utility has:

11 A. Provided written notice to the governmental entity using the public safety facility  
12 of the public utility's intention to terminate or disconnect the facility's utility service at  
13 least 60 days before the termination or disconnection date;

14 B. Obtained from the commission written authorization to terminate or disconnect the  
15 public safety facility's utility service; and

16 C. Obtained from the Department of Public Safety written authorization to terminate  
17 or disconnect the public safety facility's utility service.

18 **2. Rules.** The commission may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted  
19 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
20 subchapter 2-A. In adopting rules pursuant to this subsection, the commission shall consult  
21 with the Department of Public Safety and a statewide organization representing municipal  
22 interests in the State.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires a public utility, before it terminates or disconnects a public safety  
25 facility's utility service, to provide 60 days' advance written notice to the public safety  
26 facility of its intent to terminate or disconnect utility service and to obtain written  
27 authorization from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Public Safety to  
28 terminate or disconnect the utility service.