

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 414

S.P. 195

In Senate, February 2, 2023

An Act to Clarify the Provision of Notice of Proposed Rate Increases to Public Utility Customers

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §307, as amended by PL 1999, c. 398, Pt. A, §13 and affected by §§104 and 105, is further amended by enacting after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

A public utility seeking an increase in rates greater than 1% shall send a notice of the increase to the public utility's customers by either first-class mail or the method by which the customer receives bills from the public utility. The commission shall prepare the notice for an increase in rates greater than 1% and may not approve an increase for the public utility greater than the increase described in the notice.

SUMMARY

This bill requires a public utility seeking an increase in rates greater than 1% to send a notice of the increase to the utility's customers and prescribes details for that notice. The bill also prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from approving an increase in rates greater than the increase described in the notice sent to customers.