

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 923

S.P. 394

In Senate, March 2, 2023

An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine Electricity Consumers

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 GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §304-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§304-A. Cost and rate disclosures**

4 **1. Deferred cost estimate required.** The commission shall publish annually on the
5 commission's publicly accessible website an estimate of all deferred costs for which
6 ratepayers of each public utility for which the commission establishes rates may be
7 responsible. The estimate must include any debt incurred by the public utility and
8 accounted for in the schedules, separately stating the principal amount and interest that has
9 accrued or will accrue, in addition to any amounts attributable to a return on equity.

10 **2. Current transmission and distribution utility rates.** On January 1st of each year,
11 the commission shall publish on the commission's publicly accessible website residential
12 transmission and distribution utility rates applicable for the period of January 1st to
13 December 31st of that year.

14 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §310, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is
15 amended by enacting a new first blocked paragraph to read:

16 A commission order approving a proposed change in a schedule of filed rates must include
17 the commission's estimate of the total deferred costs, the estimated or actual term of the
18 deferral and the total estimated interest and return on equity included in the utility's
19 approved rates.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually publish on its publicly
22 accessible website current residential transmission and distribution utility rates and an
23 estimate of all deferred costs for which ratepayers of a public utility may be responsible. It
24 also requires the commission, when issuing an order approving a rate change, to include an
25 estimate of the total deferred costs, the estimated or actual term of the deferral and the total
26 estimated interest and return on equity included in the utility's approved rates.