

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 2/22/24

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1330, L.D. 2067, "An Act to Make Permanent the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers"

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

'An Act to Continue the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers'

Amend the bill in the emergency preamble in the 5th line (page 1, line 5 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "indefinitely"

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

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 3rd blocked paragraph to read:

No later than January 28, ~~2024~~ 2028, the commission shall prepare a report assessing the effectiveness of arrearage management programs from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027, including the number of participants enrolled in the programs, the number of participants completing the programs, the number of participants who have failed to complete the programs, ~~the payment patterns of participating customers after completing the programs,~~ the dollar amount of arrears forgiven, ~~a comparison of outcomes for those participating in the programs and those not participating,~~ the impact on any participating transmission and distribution utility's bad debt as a result of the programs, the costs and benefits to all ratepayers associated with the programs and recommendations for ways in which the programs might be improved or continued for the benefit of all ratepayers. In preparing its report, the commission shall hold at least one formal stakeholder meeting involving affected parties, including the Office of the Public Advocate and the participating transmission and distribution utilities. Parties must also be provided an opportunity to submit written comments to the commission regarding the performance of the programs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 4th blocked paragraph to read:

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters may report out a bill relating to the commission report to the Second Regular Session of the ~~434th~~ 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 5th blocked paragraph to read:

This subsection is repealed September 30, ~~2024~~ 2028.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §10110, sub-§2, ¶L, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §2, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

This paragraph is repealed September 30, ~~2024~~ 2028.

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

SUMMARY

This amendment updates the emergency preamble, changes the title and replaces the bill. The amendment removes the provision of the bill that indefinitely continues the arrearage management program. Instead, it extends the repeal date for the arrearage management program from September 30, 2024 to September 30, 2028. The amendment also changes the requirements for the Public Utilities Commission's report on the effectiveness of the arrearage management program and changes the reporting date to no later than January 28, 2028.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2067

LR 2780(02)

An Act to Make Permanent the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-764)

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 to adopt the changes in this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.