

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SAR
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Date: 4/1/24

(Filing No. S-633)

MAJORITY

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 918, L.D. 2163, "An Act to Require Electricity Providers to Inform Customers of Alternative Electric Rates and Gather Consent Prior to Contract Renewal"

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

'An Act to Require Consumer Consent for Certain Generation Service Contract Renewals'

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

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3203, sub-§4-B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 375, §1, is further amended to read:

4-B. Residential consumer protections. As a condition of licensing, a competitive electricity provider that provides or proposes to provide generation service to a residential consumer:

A. Shall disclose, before entering into an agreement to provide service to a residential consumer, to the residential consumer where the residential consumer can obtain information with which to compare the service provided by the competitive electricity provider and the standard-offer service;

B. May not renew a contract for generation service without providing a residential consumer with notice of renewal in advance by mail;

C. May not renew a contract for generation service at a fixed rate that is 20% or more above the contract rate in the expiring contract without the express consent of the residential consumer; if the renewal rate is a fixed rate that is:

(1) Twenty percent or more above the contract rate in the expiring contract; or

(2) Greater than the fixed rate that would, at the time of the residential consumer's contract renewal, be offered by the competitive electricity provider to customers

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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enrolling with the provider for an initial contract of a similar term and product offering;

C-1. May not renew a contract for generation service at a variable rate without the express consent of the residential consumer if the expiring contract provided generation service at a fixed rate;

D. May not renew a contract for generation service for a term that ~~is longer than~~ differs from the term of the expiring contract ~~or 12 months, whichever is shorter,~~ without the express consent of the residential consumer; and

E. May not enter into or renew a contract for generation service that includes an early termination fee.

If a residential consumer does not provide the express consent required by paragraphs C, C-1 and D, the residential consumer must be transferred to standard-offer service.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and changes the title. It does the following.

1. It provides that a competitive electricity provider may not renew a contract for generation service without the express consent of the residential consumer if the renewal rate is a fixed rate that is 20% or more above the contract rate in the expiring contract or greater than the fixed rate that would, at the time of the consumer's renewal, be offered by the competitive electricity provider to customers enrolling with the provider for an initial contract of a similar term and product offering.

2. It prohibits a competitive electricity provider from renewing a contract for generation service at a variable rate without the express consent of the residential consumer if the expiring contract provided generation service at a fixed rate.

3. It prohibits a competitive electricity provider from renewing a contract for generation service for a term that differs from the term of the expiring contract without the express consent of the residential consumer.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2163

LR 2863(02)

An Act to Require Electricity Providers to Inform Customers of Alternative Electric Rates and Gather Consent Prior to Contract Renewal

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "*A(LS-633)*
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 from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.