

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 32

Date: 3/26/24

(Filing No. S-587)

MAJORITY

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 49, L.D. 32, "An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing"

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

'An Act Regarding the Interconnection Ombudsman Position at the Public Utilities Commission'

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is further amended to read:

B. With the approval of the Attorney General, a general counsel; and

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is further amended to read:

C. An assistant administrative director; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶F, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 110, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3474, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. WWW, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Interconnection ombudsman; fund. The commission shall designate an interconnection ombudsman appointed pursuant to section 107, subsection 1 shall to assist persons seeking interconnections governed by rules adopted under subsection 3. The commission shall appoint an interconnection ombudsman who possesses designated by the commission must possess technical expertise related to interconnection and interconnection procedures.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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- A. The duties of the interconnection ombudsman include but are not limited to:
 - (1) Tracking interconnection disputes;
 - (2) Facilitating the efficient and fair resolution of disputes between customers seeking to interconnect and investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities;
 - (3) Reviewing investor-owned transmission and distribution utility interconnection policies to assess opportunities for reducing interconnection disputes;
 - (4) Convening stakeholder groups as necessary to facilitate effective communication between interconnection stakeholders;
 - (5) Preparing reports that detail the number, type, resolution timeline and outcome of interconnection disputes; and
 - (6) Any other technical or regulatory work involving public utilities.

B. The commission by rule shall establish a fee to be paid by persons seeking interconnections to fund the interconnection ombudsman. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

C. The interconnection ombudsman fund is established within the commission as a nonlapsing fund for the purposes of offsetting costs for interconnection-related activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to paragraph A, subparagraphs (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5). The commission shall deposit all fees collected under this subsection into the fund and all money in the fund must be used to fund the interconnection ombudsman. In addition to the fees established in accordance with this subsection, the fund may accept federal money and contributions from private and public sources.

Any activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to paragraph A, subparagraph (6) must be funded in accordance with section 116.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It removes the requirement that the interconnection ombudsman be appointed by the Public Utilities Commission and instead requires that the commission designate an interconnection ombudsman. It also clarifies the activities that may be funded by the interconnection ombudsman fund established within the Public Utilities Commission.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 32

LR 75(02)

An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S.587)
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.