

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 37

House of Representatives, Jan. 26, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Descoteaux of Biddeford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

AN ACT to amend section 34 of chapter 55 of the Revised
Statutes of 1916, relating to passes on street railways.

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

Section 34 of chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes of 1916
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the words "fire appa-
3 ratus" in the twelfth line of said section 34 the words 'chiefs
4 of police in plain clothes, street commissioners,' so that said
5 section shall read as follows, to wit:

'Sect. 34. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or
2 corporation knowingly to solicit, accept or receive any re-
3 bate, discount or discrimination in respect to any service
4 rendered or to be rendered by any public utility, or for any

5 service in connection therewith whereby any such service
6 shall in any manner, or by any device whatsoever, be ren-
7 dered free or at a rate less than named in the schedules in
8 force as provided herein or whereby any service or advan-
9 tage is received other than is herein specified; provided
10 that this chapter shall not prohibit such free or reduced
11 rates by public utilities as is defined and provided for in
12 the acts of Congress entitled "An Act to Regulate Com-
13 merce" and acts amendatory thereof, nor free or reduced
14 transportation to the officers of leased lines or to police offi-
15 cers or firemen in uniform or of municipal fire apparatus,
16 chiefs of police in plain clothes, street commissioners, edi-
17 tors and regular reporters of newspapers, nor free trans-
18 portation under the provisions of section fifty-one of chap-
19 ter fifty-six; nor shall it be construed to prohibit any public
20 utility from granting service at free or reduced rates for
21 charitable or benevolent purposes, provided the same be
22 approved by the commission nor shall it be unlawful for
23 any public utility to make special rates to its employes or
24 in cases of emergency service, nor shall the furnishing by
25 any public utility of any product or service at the rates
26 and upon terms and conditions provided for in any contract
27 in existence January first, nineteen hundred thirteen be
28 construed as consisting a discrimination, or undue or un-
29 reasonable preference, or advantage within the meaning
30 specified; provided, however that when any such contracts
31 are or become terminable by notice of such utility the com-

32 mission shall have power in its discretion to direct by order
33 that such contract or contracts shall be terminated by such
34 utility as and when directed by such order and provided,
35 further that it shall be lawful for any public utility to make
36 a contract for a definite term subject to the approval of
37 the commission, for its product or service, but such pub-
38 lished rates shall not be changed during the term of the
39 contract without the consent of the commission. Any per-
40 son, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this
41 section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one
42 thousand dollars for each offence.'