

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 99

House of Representatives, Feb. 2, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities and one thousand copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Cole of Eliot.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to authorize the Public Utilities Commission to investigate proposed changes in the rates of any public utility and to order refund in certain cases.

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

Whenever the Public Utilities Commission receives notice
2 of any change or changes proposed to be made in any sched-
3 ule of rates filed with said commission under the provisions
4 of law, it shall have power at any time within thirty days
5 from the filing of such change or changes, either upon com-
6 plaint or upon its own motion, and after reasonable notice,
7 to hold a public hearing and make investigation as to the

8 propriety of such proposed change or changes. After such
9 hearing and investigation, whether completed before or after
10 such change shall have become effective, the commission may
11 make such order with reference to any new rate, joint rate,
12 fare, rental, toll, classification, charge, rule, regulation or
13* form of contract or agreement proposed as would be proper
14 in a proceeding initiated upon complaint or upon motion of
15 the commission in any rate investigation. Pending such in-
16 vestigation and order, the commission may, at any time
17 within said thirty days, by filing with such schedule and de-
18 livering to the public utility affected thereby a statement in
19 writing of its reasons for said suspension, suspend the oper-
20 ation of such schedule, or any part thereof, but not for a
21 longer period than three months from the date of said order
22 of suspension; provided, however, that if said investigation
23 cannot be concluded within said period of three months, said
24 commission may, in its discretion, extend the time of suspen-
25 sion for a further period of three months. At any such
26 hearing involving any change or changes as above specified,
27 the burden of proof to show that such change is necessary
28 shall be upon the public utility.