

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 129

House of Representatives, Feb. 6, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities and one thousand copies ordered printed.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Baxter of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend Section Thirty-four of Chapter Fifty-five of the Revised Statutes relating to Public Utilities and Free Transportation on same.

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

Section thirty-four of Chapter fifty-five of the Revised
2 Statutes of Nineteen Hundred Sixteen is hereby amended
3 by striking out in the eleventh and twelfth lines thereof the
4 words "police officers or firemen in uniform," and substi-
5 tuting therefor the words 'members of police or fire de-
6 partments,' so that the same as amended shall read as fol-
7 lows:

‘Sec. 34. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation knowingly to solicit, accept or receive any rebate, discount or discrimination in respect to any service rendered or to be rendered by any public utility, or for any service in connection therewith whereby any such service shall in any manner, or by any device whatsoever, be rendered free or at a rate less than named in the schedules in force as provided herein or whereby any service or advantage is received other than is herein specified; provided that this chapter shall not prohibit such free or reduced rates by public utilities as is defined and provided for in the acts of Congress entitled, “An Act to Regulate Commerce” and acts amendatory thereof, nor free or reduced transportation to the officers of leased lines or to members of police or fire departments or of municipal fire apparatus, editors and regular reporters of newspapers, nor free transportation under the provision of section fifty-one of chapter fifty-six; nor shall it be construed to prohibit any public utility from granting service at free or reduced rates for charitable or benevolent purposes, provided the same be approved by the commission; nor shall it be unlawful for any public utility to make special rates to its employees or in cases of emergency service, nor shall the furnishing by any public utility of any product or service at the rates and upon terms and conditions provided for in any contract in existence January first, nineteen hundred thirteen be construed as constituting a discrimination, or undue or unreasonable

28 preference, or advantage within the meaning specified; pro-
29 vided, however, that when any such contract or contracts
30 are or become terminable by notice of such utility the com-
31 mission shall have power in its discretion to direct by order
32 that such contract or contracts shall be terminated by such
33 utility as and when directed by such order; and provided,
34 further, that it shall be lawful for any public utility to make
35 a contract for a definite term subject to the approval of
36 the commission, for its product or service, but such pub-
37 lished rates shall not be changed during the term of the
38 contract without the consent of the commission. Any per-
39 son, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this
40 section shall be punished by a fine of not more than one
41 thousand dollars for each offense.'