

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 300

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*House of Representatives, Feb. 13, 1917.*

*Referred to Committee on Judiciary and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Baxter of Portland.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to amend Section 34 of Chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes, 1916, relating to public utilities.

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

Section 34 of Chapter 55 of the Revised Statutes, 1916, is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after the words "emergency  
3 service" in the eighteenth line thereof, the words, "nor to  
4 prohibit any public utility from supplying water and service  
5 free or at reduced or special rates to any person, firm or  
6 corporation for fire protection purposes, through or by means  
7 of any apparatus or appliances furnished, installed or main-

8 tained by such person, firm or corporation,' so that said Sec-  
9 tion 34 when amended shall read as follows:

'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 ren-  
4 dered or to be rendered by any public utility, or for any ser-  
5 vice in connection therewith whereby any such service shall  
6 in any manner, or by any device whatsoever, be rendered  
7 free or at a rate less than named in the schedules in force as  
8 provided herein or whereby any service or advantage is re-  
9 cived other than is herein specified; provided that this chap-  
10 ter shall not prohibit such free or reduced rates by public  
11 utilities as is defined and provided for in the acts of Congress  
12 entitled, "An Act to regulate commerce" and acts amenda-  
13 tory thereof, nor free or reduced transportation to the  
14 officers of leased lines or to police officers or firemen in uni-  
15 form or of municipal fire apparatus, editors and regular  
16 reporters of newspapers, nor free transportation under the  
17 provision of Section fifty-one of Chapter fifty-six; nor shall  
18 it be construed to prohibit any public utility from granting  
19 service at free or reduced rates for charitable or benevolent  
20 purposes, provided the same be approved by the commission;  
21 nor shall it be unlawful for any public utility to make special  
22 rates to its employees or in cases of emergency service, nor  
23 to prohibit any public utility from supplying water and ser-  
24 vice free or at reduced or special rates to any person, firm or  
25 corporation for fire protection purposes through or by means

.26 of any apparatus or appliances furnished, installed or main-  
.27 tained by such person, firm or corporation, nor shall the fur-  
.28 nishing by any public utility of any product or service at the  
.29 rates and upon terms and conditions provided for in any  
.30 contract in existence January first, nineteen hundred thirteen  
.31 be construed as constituting a discrimination, or undue or  
.32 unreasonable preference, or advantage within the meaning  
.33 specified; provided, however, that when any such contract or  
.34 contracts are to become terminable by notice of such utility  
.35 the commission shall have power in its discretion to direct by  
.36 order that such contract or contracts shall be terminated by  
.37 such utility as and when directed by such order; and pro-  
.38 vided, further, that it shall be lawful for any public utility to  
.39 make a contract for a definite term subject to the approval of  
.40 the commission, for its product or service, but such published  
.41 rates shall not be changed during the term of the contract  
.42 without the consent of the commission. Any person, firm or  
.43 corporation violating the provisions of this section shall be  
.44 punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars for  
.45 each offense.'