

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 178

H. P. 606

House of Representatives, January 29, 1935.

Referred to Committee on Public Utilities and 500 copies ordered printed.
Sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, Pertaining to Public Utilities.

Whereas, during these years of depression, when it has been the duty of all good citizens to share the unusual obligations imposed upon them by government, in the last few years; it should be the duty of all corporations doing business in our state to assume their share of these unusual obligations; and

Whereas, during these years of depression, the salaries and wages of those fortunate enough to have employment, have been materially and substantially reduced, and, there are thousands of our citizens upon the relief roles; and

Whereas, during this entire period, our Public Utilities Commission, adopted and established, as we believed, not only for the protection of those corporations operating thereunder, but primarily and principally to protect all the citizens of the state of Maine; and

Whereas, the said Commission, having failed in its duty to the citizens of Maine, by its complete failure to assist those in distress, but has continued to permit the various utilities operating in this state, to continue to do business, without any reduction in their rates, in spite of the conditions under which our citizens have been obliged to labor; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That a committee of 5 be appointed, 2 senators, and 3 repre-

sentatives, for the purpose of investigating the reasons why the utilities of the state, are permitted to carry on, and to extract from the citizens of our state, the same rates for their services, that existed prior to the so-called depression, and have been doing the past few years, in spite of conditions under which our citizens have been obliged to labor; and be it further

Resolved: That this committee have the right to summons before it the members of the Public Utilities Commission of this state, and all corporations doing business under authority of chapter 62 of the revised statutes to show cause why its rates should not be decreased, in accordance with the decrease in salaries and wages suffered by the citizens of this state, and why the said utility or corporation should not be obliged to share its part of the burden, imposed upon all the citizens. This is to include all power, telephone, telegraph, railroads, and gas companies, and any other utility not herein mentioned, doing business by virtue of authority of the public utility commission of this state; and be it further

Resolved: That the sum of \$10,000 be appropriated for the use of this committee to employ counsel, subpoena witnesses, and for any purpose necessary in carrying out the purposes of this resolve; and be it further

Resolved: That the said committee shall report its findings to the 88th legislature.