

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 688

H. P. 482

House of Representatives, February 12, 1957.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Coyne of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to Enforcement of Collection of Sewerage Rates by Waterville Sewerage District.

Preamble. Whereas, the proper collection and disposal of sewage and wastes, together with any treatment thereof, are vital to the health and well-being of the inhabitants of a community; and

Whereas, the successful operation of a water supply system is dependent upon the provision of adequate facilities for conveying from premises receiving pure water the resultant sewage and wastes and of adequate facilities for collecting and disposing of the same; and

Whereas, owners of property served by sewers, sewerage system and sewage treatment works and users of water on or in such premises are properly chargeable for such service according to the quantity supplied to them as measured by water meter readings or flat-rate water charges; and

Whereas, to enable the Waterville Sewerage District to acquire, construct and operate sewers, sewerage systems and sewage treatment works, revenues must be assured for the successful issue of bonds, for obtaining credit on favorable terms and for maintaining and extending its facilities; and

Whereas, the prompt payment of rates, fees or charges for sewer, sewerage and sewage treatment service can be assured only by the right of water shut-off for nonpayment thereof, now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Shutting off water if sewer charges not paid. If the owner or occupant of premises located within the Waterville Sewerage District shall neglect

or fail to pay, for a period of 30 days from the due date thereof, any rates, fees or charges for sewer, sewerage or sewage treatment service, or any assessment levied on account of the authorized construction of any such sewer imposed by the Waterville Sewerage District, and such premises are served by the water works system of Kennebec Water District, such water utility is hereby authorized and required, at the request and direction of said Waterville Sewerage District, to shut off the supply of water to such premises until all such overdue rates, fees, charges or assessments, together with any penalties and interest thereon, shall be paid.

Sec. 2. Kennebec Water District to be reimbursed for lost revenues, etc. If in carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this act, the Kennebec Water District shuts off the supply of water to any such premises to effect the prompt payment of such rates, fees, charges or assessments levied by Waterville Sewerage District, and such Kennebec Water District subsequently restores or reconnects service to such premises upon notification by such Sewerage District that payment has been received, such Kennebec Water District shall be reimbursed a pro rata amount of the usual water bill as compensation for lost revenue, and shall further be reimbursed the sum of \$2 for such restoration or reconnection of water service to such premises, said sums to be paid by said Sewerage District and be recoverable by said Sewerage District as an additional levy or charge against the owner or occupant of such premises.

If in carrying out the provisions of section 1 aforesaid, the Kennebec Water District shuts off the supply of water to any such premises at the request and direction of Waterville Sewerage District, the Waterville Sewerage District shall pay the Kennebec Water District any damages and costs for which it may be legally liable to such owner or occupant by reason of having shut off the supply of water.

Sec. 3. Kennebec Water District to make records available. The Kennebec Water District is hereby authorized and required following the expiration of make available to such Sewerage District its records of metered water readings each quarter-year period, at the request of the Waterville Sewerage District, to and flat-rate billing data covering the expired quarter-year period.