

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

AND AT THE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
August 3, 1981

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

1981

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective June 19, 1981

CHAPTER 482

H. P. 1513 — L. D. 1632

AN ACT to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Purchase Electric Energy for Resale on a Nonprofit Basis to Electric Utilities Serving this State.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the State currently has no ability to negotiate for the purchase of electric energy from Canada; and

Whereas, such ability will greatly enhance the security of supply of electricity to the people of Maine and may, in some instances, result in lower electricity prices; and

Whereas, Canadian authorities have recently made clear their willingness to negotiate with the State of Maine for the sale of electric energy; and

Whereas, that opportunity could be lost by undue delay; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

35 MRSA § 2328 is enacted to read:

§ 2328. Purchase and resale of electric energy or capacity by Public Utilities Commission

The Public Utilities Commission, when authorized by the Governor, shall represent the State in negotiating, contracting for and purchasing electric energy generated outside of the State, and in reselling the purchased energy to electric companies serving this State, as defined in chapter 1, when the commission determines that the purchases and resales will serve the energy needs of the State in a manner consistent with the public interest. As used in this section, the term

electrical energy shall include capacity. All resales of electric energy under this section shall be on a nonprofit basis without preference or discrimination, and may include, subject to the approval of the Governor, costs incurred by the commission in its negotiating, contracting and purchasing activities under this section. In the case where no purchase-sale agreement is made, the Governor shall be responsible for proposing a method of paying the costs he has approved in conjunction with the negotiations. The commission may resell purchased energy or capacity under this section to electric utilities operating outside of the State if the resale is reasonably incidental to the resale of power within the State. In addition, the commission may contract for the transmission of energy purchased under this section to the place of resale, and shall have all implied and incidental powers which are reasonably necessary and proper to enable it to carry out the purpose of this section. No electric company may refuse to transmit energy purchased under this section via its facilities at reasonable rates if it has capability to transmit the energy.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective June 22, 1981

CHAPTER 483

S. P. 225 — L. D. 613

AN ACT to Stabilize the Maximum Weekly Benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, on July 1, 1981, the maximum weekly benefits payable under the Workers' Compensation Act will be increased relative to 200% of the state average weekly wage; and

Whereas, the stabilization contemplated by this bill would negate that increase; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 39 MRSA § 54, first ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 493, § 1, is further amended to read: