

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 5, 2000 to May 12, 2000

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
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PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
2000

CHAPTER 601

H.P. 1697 - L.D. 2403

An Act Regarding Electric Metering and Billing Competition

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3202, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1999, c. 398, Pt. D, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4. Electric billing and metering services. The commission by rule may provide for competition in the provision of electric billing and metering services. The commission in its rules shall establish terms and conditions for such competition including which services are subject to competition and which customers will receive competitive services.

If the commission provides for competition for any billing or metering services, the commission shall:

A. Establish in its rules minimum standards necessary to protect consumers of such services and codes of conduct governing the relationship among transmission and distribution utilities providing such services, any affiliates of transmission and distribution utilities providing such services and providers of such services that are not affiliated with a transmission and distribution utility; and

B. Determine each transmission and distribution utility's costs of providing such services as reflected in consumer rates, including capital costs, depreciation, operating expenses and taxes, and shall separate this portion of the consumer rate into a separate charge.

Rules adopted under this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 602

S.P. 943 - L.D. 2473

An Act to Promote the Use of an Advocate Staff

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1305, sub-§5, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 691, §3 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

C. The commission may assign one or more staff members who are not advisors in a proceeding to serve as advocates to facilitate negotiated settlements in the proceeding. If the commission receives a written request from all of the parties in an adjudicatory proceeding that one or more staff advocates be appointed to facilitate a negotiated settlement in the proceeding, the commission shall either grant the request or issue a written order explaining the reasons why the commission denies the request.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 603

H.P. 1891 - L.D. 2629

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Relating to Review of the Department of Conservation Under the State Government Evaluation Act

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §959, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. C, §1, is further amended to read:

A. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters shall use the following list as a guideline for scheduling reviews:

- (1) Baxter State Park Authority in ~~1997~~ 2003;
- (2) Department of Conservation in ~~1997~~ 2005;
- (3) Blueberry Advisory Committee in ~~1999~~ 2005;
- (4) Board of Pesticides Control in ~~1999~~ 2005;
- (5) Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine in ~~1999~~ 2005;
- (6) Seed Potato Board in ~~1999~~ 2005;
- (7) Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council in 2001;