

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY,
UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

The commission must inform the consumer-owned public utility of the requirements of Title 35-A, section 713.

The law also makes changes to the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund including:

1. Authorizing the ConnectMaine Authority to award funds to provide grant matches to municipalities that are applying for grants from other sources that require fund matching;
2. Excepting municipalities receiving funds for grant matching purposes from the 25% cash match requirement;
3. Requiring municipalities receiving grant match funding to provide services to unserved community anchor institutions in the project area into which they are extending services if those unserved community anchor institutions will provide the public with access to the Internet; and
4. Directing the authority to engage in rulemaking to define “project area” and “unserved community anchor institutions” for the purposes of grant match funding.

The law requires the authority, in consultation with the commission and the Office of the Public Advocate, to develop standard charter provisions that may be used by a water district to develop a legislative proposal to amend its charter to operate broadband or other Internet access systems or to provide broadband or other Internet access services to the public.

LD 1913 An Act To Create the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 623 establishes the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council which is tasked with making recommendations to the Public Advocate regarding methods to ensure that ratepayers in the State are able to afford electricity. It requires the Public Advocate to submit a report by December 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on the activities of the council and its recommendations. The committee may report out a bill relating to the recommendations of the council.

Public Law 2021, chapter 623 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 18, 2022.