

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

‘**Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

6. Annual report. The commission shall report by November 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on low-income assistance programs established or approved under subsection 2 or 3 and any equitable-treatment program established pursuant to subsection 5. The report must, at a minimum, include:

A. For each month of the program year, the number of participants enrolled in low-income assistance programs, the number receiving oxygen pump benefits and the number receiving ventilator benefits;

B. For each month of the program year, the dollar amount of low-income assistance program benefits, the dollar amount of oxygen pump benefits and the dollar amount of ventilator benefits; and

C. An assessment of the effectiveness of the oxygen pump benefit and the ventilator benefit with regard to covering only those electric charges directly related to use of an oxygen pump or ventilator by the program participant.

Sec. 4. Report; medical devices under equitable-treatment program. The Public Utilities Commission shall examine medical devices that may be appropriate for inclusion in the equitable-treatment program established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3214. For each medical device examined, the commission shall assess its electricity requirements and typical usage patterns and gather data on the number of residential electricity customers and low-income program participants currently using the device. The commission shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than January 15, 2008. ’

SUMMARY

This amendment adds a provision to the bill to require the Public Utilities Commission to report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters on the low-income assistance programs for residential electricity consumers and the equitable-treatment program for low-income program participants who require an oxygen pump or ventilator for at least 8 hours each day. The amendment also requires the commission to examine medical devices that may be appropriate for inclusion in the equitable-treatment program and report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy no later than January 15, 2008.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)