



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1686

H.P. 1121

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

**An Act to Clarify, Align and Amend Provisions of the Maine
Revised Statutes, Title 35-A**

Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 307, §2, is
3 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4 **F. The interconnection ombudsman is:**

5 (1) For interconnection-related activities undertaken by the interconnection
6 ombudsman, funded through fees assessed under section 3474, federal money and
7 contributions from private and public sources; and

8 (2) For activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to
9 section 3474, subsection 4, paragraph A, subparagraph (6), funded in accordance
10 with section 116.

11 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §120, sub-§7, ¶D-1** is enacted to read:

12 **D-1. Section 3805, subsection 1;**

13 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §901, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 325, §2, is amended
14 to read:

15 The Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the requirements of this
16 chapter do not apply to a consumer-owned water utility as defined in section 6101,
17 subsection 1-A.

18 **Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§6, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 201, §2, is
19 further amended to read:

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

23 **Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§6, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 201, §2, is
24 repealed.

25 **Sec. 6. 35-A MRSA §4516-A, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 318, §15, is
26 further amended to read:

27 **1. Violation of this Title.** The commission may impose an administrative penalty on
28 a natural gas pipeline utility that violates any provision of this Title relating to safety of
29 pipeline facilities or transportation of gas or any rule issued under this Title in an amount
30 not to exceed ~~\$223,000~~ the administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule,
31 which may not exceed the administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal
32 Regulations, Section 190.223, as amended, for each violation. Each day of violation
33 constitutes a separate offense.

34 **Sec. 7. 35-A MRSA §4516-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 318, §16, is
35 further amended to read:

36 **2. Maximum administrative penalty.** The maximum administrative penalty ~~may not~~
37 ~~exceed \$2,227,000~~ for any related series of violations may not exceed the maximum
38 administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule, which may not exceed the
39 maximum administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section
40 190.223, as amended.

1 electrification for clarity. It also removes the requirement that the commission include in
2 its annual report on low-income assistance programs an assessment of the effectiveness of
3 the oxygen pump benefit and the ventilator benefit with respect to covering only those
4 electric charges directly related to use of an oxygen pump or ventilator by the program
5 participants.

6 3. It clarifies that a consumer-owned water utility is not subject to the requirements
7 related to the issuance of stocks, bonds and notes, even if the utility's charter established in
8 law requires authorization by the Public Utilities Commission.

9 4. It amends penalty provisions relating to violations committed by natural gas pipeline
10 utilities and gas utilities to align with federal regulations.

11 5. It amends the maximum rate adjustment that a consumer-owned water utility may
12 propose from 1.5% of current total annual revenue to 1.5% of current rates.

13 6. It aligns the entities required to contribute to the commission's telecommunications
14 education access fund with the entities required to contribute to the Maine Universal
15 Service Fund.