

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

—
S.P. 756 - L.D. 1949

An Act Regarding Energy Fairness

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §103-B is enacted to read:

§103-B. Affordability impact considerations

In executing its duties, powers and regulatory functions under this Title, the commission, while ensuring system reliability, shall consider the impact on affordability for residential customers.

Sec. 2. Credit and collection data; publication. The Public Utilities Commission shall publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding credit and collection activities of a transmission and distribution utility with more than 50,000 customers that is submitted to the commission by the utility in accordance with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 704, subsection 1. The commission shall ensure that the data is provided on the commission's publicly accessible website in a clear and transparent manner.

Sec. 3. Comprehensive review of electric delivery rates. The Public Utilities Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of each component of electric delivery rates. In conducting the review required pursuant to this section, the commission shall consider whether changes to the current design and composition of electric delivery rates could be implemented to, at a minimum:

1. Contain customer costs;
2. Reduce transmission and distribution utility bill volatility; and
3. Increase transmission and distribution utility bill transparency.

The commission shall engage stakeholders in the review process under this section and solicit stakeholder feedback. By January 31, 2027, the commission shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters informing the committee of its work to date on the comprehensive review. By December 15, 2027, the commission shall submit a final report regarding its comprehensive review, including any recommendations or proposed legislation, to the joint standing

committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 4. Affordability metric development. The Public Utilities Commission shall develop an affordability metric to be used to assess the impact of electricity bills on the overall energy burden for residential customers of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. By January 15, 2027, the commission shall submit an interim report on the commission's progress under this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The commission shall submit a final report by December 15, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding the development of an affordability metric under this section, along with any recommendations or proposed legislation, if necessary. The committee may report out a bill related to the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.