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Date: (Filing No. S-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 660, L.D. 1655, “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Consumer-owned Water Utilities”

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 1 in paragraph A in the last 2 lines (page 1, lines 13 and 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "The commission, for good cause shown by the qualified small water utility, may waive the requirements of this paragraph." and inserting the following: '~~The commission, for good cause shown by the qualified small water utility, may waive the requirements of this paragraph.~~'

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 1 in the first blocked paragraph in the last line (page 1, line 26 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "authority." the following: 'The commission, for good cause shown by the qualified small water utility, may waive the requirements of this subsection.'

Amend the bill in section 8 in §6104-B in subsection 3 in the last line (page 3, line 17 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "adjustment." the following: 'A consumer-owned water utility that elects to adjust rates pursuant to this section and has been granted an exemption from sections 6104 and 6104-A by the commission in accordance with section 6114 is exempt from the requirement to file the notice of the proposed rate change with the commission and the Public Advocate under this subsection.'

Amend the bill in section 9 in c. 64-A in §6432 by striking out all of subsection 1 (page 4, lines 40 to 45 and page 5, lines 1 and 2 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

1. Commission responsibility; charter creation. If the commission approves a petition of 2 or more consumer-owned water utilities for consolidation into a single consumer-owned water utility in accordance with section 6431, the commission shall provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters a report on the consolidation of the utilities that includes a draft charter created in accordance with this section for the approved consumer-owned water utility. The committee may report out a bill for each approved water utility listed in the report.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

The amendment permits the Public Utilities Commission, for good cause shown, to waive the requirements for an annual review or audit for all qualified small water utilities. It provides that if a consumer-owned water utility chooses to use the rate adjustment option provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 6104-B and the utility has been granted an exemption by the commission from the requirements of the laws offering optional rate-making processes for consumer-owned water utilities, the utility is also exempt from the requirement in section 6104-B to provide notice of its rate change pursuant to that section to the commission and the Office of the Public Advocate. The amendment clarifies the language regarding charters brought before the Legislature in accordance with a consumer-owned water utility consolidation to specify that the joint standing committee may report out a bill for each newly created water utility.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)