

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

H.P. 702 - L.D. 1080

**An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on
a Residential Customer's Income**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §705, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

1. Residential customers; applicants. ~~No~~ A public utility may not require ~~any~~ a deposit of ~~any~~ a residential customer without proof that the customer is likely to be a credit risk or to damage the property of the utility. That proof ~~shall~~ must be furnished to the customer upon request. Absence of previous experience with the utility ~~shall~~ may not be considered proof that the customer is a credit risk or threatens to damage utility property. A utility may not require a deposit from an applicant for residential service based solely on the applicant's income. For purposes of this subsection, "applicant" means a person that applies for public utility service and has not been a customer of the utility within 30 calendar days prior to the person's application for utility service. The commission shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Act, the Public Utilities Commission shall initiate rulemaking to implement the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 705, subsection 1, as amended by this Act.