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Date: (Filing No. H-)

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to H.P. 222, L.D. 318, “An Act To Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals”

Amend the amendment in section 3 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 2, lines 21 to 44 in amendment) and inserting the following:

2. The Public Advocate shall examine the development and adoption of customer protections that include at least the following:

- A. Conditions for, or prohibitions on, any fees for residential customers seeking to change a product or pricing plan;
- B. Credits for excessive call center wait times;
- C. Education programs to inform customers about customer choices and protections and public service announcements by state agencies encouraging customers actively to shop for electricity supply options before winter and summer seasons when prices may be higher;
- D. Options for allowing retail electricity suppliers to bill for their electricity supply, value-added services and products along with the local distribution company’s regulated charges, as well as an examination of whether retail electricity suppliers should be allowed to collect electricity bills that include value-added services and products other than generation supply service and whether nonpayment of those portions of electricity bills should be subject to the threat of disconnection of service;
- E. Publication, at least annually, of a competitive electricity provider report card that includes, but is not limited to, levels of verified complaints filed with the Public Utilities Commission against electricity providers;
- F. Examining the advantages and disadvantages of variable-rate contracts for residential customers;
- G. Requiring renewable energy products marketed by retail electricity suppliers to be consistent with the State's renewable energy resources laws;
- H. Examining whether retail electricity suppliers should be allowed to conduct door-to-door sales only if the individual personally attempting to make a sale is employed by and supervised by the retail electricity supplier and whether the State's existing

HOUSE AMENDMENT

1 consumer protection laws adequately protect the State's retail electricity consumers;
2 and

3 I. Programs to protect low-income customers that incorporate energy equity
4 considerations, including but not limited to a hardship program that provides grants to
5 qualifying low-income customers on an annual basis; a payment extension program
6 that allows a qualifying low-income customer additional time to pay a bill without the
7 threat of termination; a payment plan program that allows qualifying low-income
8 customers to pay the balance owed in installments along with the regular monthly bill;
9 a bill discount program that provides qualifying low-income customers with a fixed
10 discount on their monthly bill; and other programs designed to increase access to
11 renewable energy for such customers.'

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

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This amendment directs the Public Advocate to examine:

16 1. Whether retail electricity suppliers should be allowed to collect electricity bills that
17 include value-added services and products other than generation supply service and
18 whether nonpayment of those portions of electricity bills should be subject to the threat of
19 disconnection of service;

20 2. The advantages and disadvantages of variable-rate contracts for residential
21 customers;

22 3. Requiring renewable energy products marketed by retail electricity suppliers to be
23 consistent with the State's renewable energy resources laws; and

24 4. Whether retail electricity suppliers should be allowed to conduct door-to-door sales
25 only if the individual personally attempting to make the sale is employed by and supervised
26 by the retail electricity supplier and whether the State's existing consumer protection laws
27 adequately protect the State's retail electricity consumers.

28 **SPONSORED BY:** _____

29 **(Representative GROHOSKI, N.)**

30 **TOWN: Ellsworth**