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Date: (Filing No. S-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 195, L.D. 414, “An Act to Clarify the Provision of Notice of Proposed Rate Increases to Public Utility Customers”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §307, as amended by PL 1999, c. 398, Pt. A, §13 and affected by §§104 and 105, is further amended by enacting after the first paragraph a new paragraph to read:

A public utility seeking a general increase in rates shall send a notice of the increase to its customers by either first-class mail or the method by which the customer receives bills from the utility. The commission shall prepare the notice in consultation with the utility. If, after the notice of the general increase in rates is sent, the utility seeks a rate increase greater than what was stated in the notice, the utility shall promptly notify the commission. If the utility demonstrates good cause, the commission may allow the utility to seek an increase greater than what was stated in the notice subject to reasonable conditions established by the commission, including, but not limited to, requiring the utility to send a new notice to its customers describing the revised proposed increase.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and requires a public utility seeking a change in rates, tolls and charges that increases the annual operating revenues of the utility by more than 1% to send a notice of the increase to its customers. The Public Utilities Commission must prepare the notice in consultation with the utility. If the utility seeks a rate increase greater than what was stated in the notice after the notice was sent, the utility must notify the commission. If the utility demonstrates good cause, the commission may allow the utility to seek the increase greater than what was stated in the notice subject to reasonable

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1 conditions established by the commission, which may include requiring the utility to send
2 a new notice to its customers describing the revised proposed increase.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)