

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 2 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 10 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "process" the following: 'or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer'

Amend the bill in section 3 in paragraph A in the 2nd line (page 1, line 27 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "process" the following: 'or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

**‘Sec. 4. Transparency in electricity rates and assessments.** The Public Utilities Commission shall develop information useful to electricity ratepayers regarding the costs and effects of state policies on electricity ratepayers. The commission and the Office of the Public Advocate shall post the information on their publicly accessible websites. The commission shall also examine means by which transmission and distribution utilities may inform customers of the information developed and posted by the commission. The commission shall report on its actions under this section together with any recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February 15, 2013. The committee may report out a bill relating to the commission’s report to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.’

## SUMMARY

This amendment provides that the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Public Advocate must develop their budgets using a zero-based budgeting process or other process or method directed by the State Budget Officer. It also removes from the bill the provisions relating to notices of state and federal charges and assessments and replaces it with a requirement that the Public Utilities Commission develop information useful to electricity ratepayers regarding the costs and effects of state policies on electricity ratepayers. The commission and the Office of the Public Advocate must post the information on their publicly accessible websites. The commission is also directed to examine means by which transmission and distribution utilities may inform customers of the information developed. The commission is directed to report on its actions, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February 15, 2013. The committee is authorized to report out a bill relating to the commission’s report to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.