129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document	No. 372
H.P. 281	House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

An Act To Increase the Safety of Municipal Residents by Allowing Municipalities To Address Downed Wires in Extended Power Outages

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

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ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and
Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, BAILEY of Saco, BERRY of Bowdoinham, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, HANDY of Lewiston, HEPLER of Woolwich, TEPLER of Topsham, Senator: CARSON of Cumberland.

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3111 is enacted to read:

§3111. Extended power outages

In the event of a power outage of 5 or more days, a municipality may hire appropriately licensed professionals to address power, telephone and similar lines that have been felled by weather events and that are preventing access to roadways within the municipality. A municipality's costs pursuant to this section must be paid by the municipality, but the municipality may apply to receive compensation from the local electric utility, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency, the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency or another funding source.

SUMMARY

This bill allows a municipality, in the event of a power outage of 5 or more days, to hire appropriately licensed professionals to address power, telephone and similar lines that have been felled by weather events and that are preventing access to roadways within the municipality. It allows a municipality to apply to receive compensation from the local electric utility, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency, the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency or another funding source.