



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1080

H.P. 702

House of Representatives, March 18, 2025

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 14, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, KESSLER of South Portland, MCINTYRE of Lowell,
RUNTE of York, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham,
Senator: LAWRENCE of York.

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

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

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

15 **Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules.** The Public Utilities
16 Commission shall initiate rulemaking to implement the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A,
17 section 705, subsection 1, as amended by this Act, no later than October 1, 2025.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill prohibits a public utility from requiring a deposit based solely on the income
20 of an applicant for utility service that has not been a customer of the utility within 30
21 calendar days of the application. The bill also requires the Public Utilities Commission to
22 initiate rulemaking to implement the provisions of the bill no later than October 1, 2025.