



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 241

S.P. 107

In Senate, January 21, 2025

**An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve
Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on January 16, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §6115** is enacted to read:

3 **§6115. Low-income assistance**

4 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a water utility or group of water
5 utilities may petition the commission for approval of a low-income assistance program to
6 allow a qualifying low-income residential ratepayer to receive a discount or credit applying
7 to the amount the residential ratepayer would otherwise owe to the water utility. The
8 commission shall approve the proposed discount or credit if it determines that the proposal
9 is a cost-effective means of keeping water affordable for low-income residential ratepayers.

10 For the purposes of this section, "residential ratepayer" means a customer who is
11 considered residential under the terms and conditions of the water utility.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill allows a water utility or group of water utilities to petition the Public Utilities
14 Commission to approve a low-income assistance program to allow qualifying low-income
15 residential ratepayers to receive a discount or credit applying to the amount the residential
16 ratepayer would otherwise owe to the water utility. The bill requires the commission to
17 approve the rate change if it determines that the proposal is a cost-effective way to keep
18 water affordable for low-income residential ratepayers.