



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 801

S.P. 245

In Senate, March 1, 2011

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**An Act To Authorize the Public Utilities Commission To Require  
That Transmission or Distribution Lines Be Placed Underground**

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

*Joseph G. Carleton Jr.*

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HILL of York. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3132-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§3132-A. Placement of lines underground**

4 Upon petition by a customer of a transmission and distribution utility, the  
5 commission shall open a proceeding to determine whether to order a transmission or  
6 distribution line to be placed underground. The commission shall order that a  
7 transmission or distribution line be placed underground if the commission finds that the  
8 public health, safety or welfare would be enhanced by such placement. The commission  
9 must allow a transmission and distribution utility to recover the actual costs of complying  
10 with the commission's order to place a line underground.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission, on petition of a customer of a  
13 transmission and distribution utility, to open a proceeding to determine whether to order a  
14 transmission or distribution line to be placed underground. The commission must order  
15 that a transmission or distribution line be placed underground if the commission finds that  
16 the public health, safety or welfare would be enhanced by such placement. The  
17 commission is required to allow a transmission and distribution utility to recover the  
18 actual costs of complying with the commission's order to place a line underground.