



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

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Legislative Document

No. 1729

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S.P. 628

In Senate, December 22, 2017

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### **An Act Regarding Compensation by Large Transmission and Distribution Utilities**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 19, 2017. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §316** is enacted to read:

3 **§316. Customer-constructed service drops**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Large transmission and distribution utility" means a transmission and  
7 distribution utility serving more than 500,000 retail customers.

8 B. "Service drop" means the service cable or other conductor providing secondary  
9 voltage to a customer's service entrance equipment from a transformer or from a  
10 secondary conductor, as defined by the commission by rule.

11 **2. Service drop reimbursements.** The construction and reimbursement of costs of  
12 the construction of a service drop by a customer of a large transmission and distribution  
13 utility is governed by the following:

14 A. At the request of the customer, the large transmission and distribution utility shall  
15 reimburse a customer for a customer-constructed service drop as long as:

16 (1) The service drop is no more than 150 feet in length if the service drop is  
17 located on the same side of the street as the large transmission and distribution  
18 utility's distribution facilities or no more than 200 feet if the service drop is  
19 located on the opposite side of the street from the large transmission and  
20 distribution utility's distribution facilities; and

21 (2) The service drop meets the National Electrical Safety Code and the large  
22 transmission and distribution utility's standards; and

23 B. The price paid by the large transmission and distribution utility to reimburse the  
24 customer for a customer-constructed service drop, regardless of whether the service  
25 drop was constructed underground or aboveground, may not exceed the amount the  
26 large transmission and distribution utility would have expended if that utility had  
27 constructed an aboveground service drop to serve that customer.

28 **3. Rules.** The commission shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this  
29 section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined  
30 in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill establishes requirements relating to so-called electric service drops  
33 constructed by customers of large electric transmission and distribution utilities. The bill  
34 requires a utility to reimburse a customer for an aboveground or underground customer-  
35 constructed service drop at the customer's request, but limits the price to be paid to the  
36 cost the utility would have expended to construct an aboveground service drop.