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ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 107, L.D. 241, “An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

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

§6115. Low-income assistance

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a water utility or group of water utilities may petition the commission for approval of a low-income assistance program to allow a qualifying low-income residential ratepayer to receive a discount or credit applying to the amount the residential ratepayer would otherwise owe to the water utility. The commission may approve the proposed discount or credit if it determines that the proposal is a cost-effective means of keeping water affordable for low-income residential ratepayers. The commission may not require a water utility to initiate a low-income assistance program pursuant to this section.

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

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment allows, instead of requires as in the bill, the Public Utilities Commission to approve the rate change if it determines that the proposal is a cost-effective way to keep water affordable for low-income residential

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 107, L.D. 241

1 ratepayers. This amendment prohibits the commission from requiring a water utility to
2 initiate a low-income assistance program.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)