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Date: (Filing No. S-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 798, L.D. 1962, “An Act to Limit Utility Shut-offs”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Regarding Utility Shut-offs'

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

'Sec. 1. Adopt rules governing transmission and distribution utility and gas utility terminations and disconnections. Resolved: That, in accordance with its authority under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 111 and 704, the Public Utilities Commission shall adopt rules governing transmission and distribution utility and gas utility service terminations and disconnections due to unpaid bills for utility service.

1. For residential customers of transmission and distribution utilities and gas utilities, the rules must:

A. Prohibit the termination or disconnection of utility service for unpaid utility bills during extreme weather or temperature conditions, including extreme heat or humidity, between April 16th and November 14th; and

B. Establish a threshold dollar amount greater than \$50 owed by a customer who does not pay or make a payment arrangement on an undisputed overdue utility bill at or above which the utility may terminate or disconnect utility service; and

2. For low-income customers of a transmission and distribution utility, the rules must prohibit the utility from:

A. Charging a restoration or reconnection fee or requiring a security deposit for a restoration of service; and

B. Charging late fees that accrued prior to the termination or disconnection.

For the purposes of this subsection, "low-income customer" means a residential customer of a transmission and distribution utility who, as determined by the commission, receives

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 low-income financial assistance pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2 or low-
2 income home energy assistance pursuant to the program described in Title 30-A, section
3 4722, subsection 1, paragraph W or who is enrolled in an arrearage management program
4 implemented pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2-A.

5 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
6 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.'

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

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, with a resolve. The
11 amendment requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing transmission
12 and distribution utility and gas utility terminations and disconnections of service to
13 residential customers for unpaid utility bills.

14 1. The rules must prohibit the termination or disconnection of electric and gas utility
15 service during extreme weather or temperature conditions, including extreme heat or
16 humidity, and establish a threshold dollar amount greater than \$50 owed by a customer
17 who does not pay or make a payment arrangement on an undisputed overdue utility bill at
18 or above which the utility may terminate or disconnect utility service.

19 2. The rules must prohibit a transmission and distribution utility from charging
20 restoration or reconnection fees or late fees or requiring a security deposit in connection
21 with the restoration of service if the customer is a low-income customer.

22 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
23 **(See attached)**