

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

H.P. 119 - L.D. 186

**An Act to Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to Establish
Time-of-use Pricing for Standard-offer Service**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3212, sub-§4-B, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 677, Pt. B, §2, is amended to read:

4-B. Demand response and energy efficiency. The commission may incorporate cost-effective demand response, including the use of time-of-use pricing, and energy efficiency into the supply of standard-offer service. The commission shall encourage entities based in this State that are not otherwise either a standard-offer service provider or its affiliate to participate in supplying cost-effective demand response or energy efficiency pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3212, sub-§4-C, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 677, Pt. B, §2, is amended to read:

4-C. Authority to establish various contract lengths and terms. For the purpose of providing over a reasonable time period the lowest price for standard-offer service to residential and small commercial customers, the commission, with respect to residential and small commercial standard-offer service, may, in addition to incorporating cost-effective demand response, including the use of time-of-use pricing, and energy efficiency pursuant to subsection 4-B and to the extent authorized in section 3210-C, incorporating the energy portion of any contracts entered into pursuant to section 3210-C, establish various standard-offer service contract lengths and terms.

Sec. 3. Public Utilities Commission; time-of-use rates updates. The Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters that describes the process for participation in a commission proceeding and includes any other relevant information as determined by the commission:

1. Upon issuance of a report, if a report is issued, in Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 2024-00231; and

2. Prior to the initiation of an adjudicatory proceeding to establish time-of-use rates for the provision of standard-offer service pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3212.

If the Public Utilities Commission submits a report in accordance with subsection 2 prior to the initiation of an adjudicatory proceeding to establish time-of-use rates for the provision of standard-offer service, the report must include a description of how the Public Utilities Commission will consider the potential effects of time-of-use rates on the types of residential customers described in section 4.

Sec. 4. Considerations; time-of-use rates proceeding. In an adjudicatory proceeding to establish time-of-use rates for the provision of standard-offer service pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3212, the Public Utilities Commission shall consider the impact of time-of-use rates and seek to avoid negative impacts of time-of-use rates on:

1. Residential customers who rely on life support systems;
2. Residential customers who receive assistance from the State due to a medical condition and are participants in Central Maine Power's Electricity Lifeline Program or Versant Power's LifeLight Program or successor programs;
3. Residential customers who are senior citizens; and
4. Economically vulnerable residential customers.