

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN

H.P. 882 - L.D. 1191

**Resolve, To Encourage Business Development by Creating Limits on the
Time Certain Utilities May Hold a Business Customer's Deposit**

Sec. 1. Rules on business customers' deposits. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall amend its rule, Chapter 815: Consumer Protection Standards For Electric And Gas Transmission And Distribution Utilities, to require that deposits paid by small businesses with impeccable bill-paying histories be returned to those businesses after a reasonable time period. The commission may consider establishing different rules for different-sized utilities to account for differences in the risk to other ratepayers associated with defaults by businesses. The commission may consider basing eligibility for return of a deposit on the size of the deposit that was required of the business, such as a business whose deposit was less than \$10,000. The commission shall establish a reasonable time period, such as 5 years, before a business is eligible for a return of the deposit. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A and must be provisionally adopted by January 15, 2012.

In House of Representatives, 2011

Read and passed finally.

..... Speaker

In Senate, 2011

Read and passed finally.

..... President

Approved 2011

..... Governor