

## 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

**Legislative Document** 

No. 668

H.P. 498

House of Representatives, February 17, 2011

**An Act To Improve Regional Transmission Organization Responsiveness** 

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Clerk

Presented by Representative HINCK of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CRAY of Palmyra, HAYES of Buckfield, Senators: HOBBINS of York, JACKSON of Aroostook, PATRICK of Oxford, THIBODEAU of Waldo.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3218 is enacted to read:
3	§3218. Regional transmission organizations
4 5 6	1. Investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities. Beginning January 1 2013, an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility must be a member of a regional transmission organization under subsection 2.
7 8	2. Regional transmission organization. For purposes of this section, a regional transmission organization must:
9 10	A. Conduct itself in compliance with Title 1, chapter 13, publish an agenda for each meeting prior to the meeting and keep and publish minutes of each meeting;
11 12	B. Be governed by a board of at least 3 members elected by a public nomination and election process;
13 14	C. Guarantee representation of residential, commercial and industrial consumers on the board in paragraph B; and
15 16	D. Certify that the rates and actions of its member investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities are just and reasonable to their customers.
17 18 19	3. Conformance. An investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that is not a member of a regional transmission organization or is a member of a regional transmission organization that does not conform to the requirements of subsection 2 must:
20	A. Join a conforming regional transmission organization;
21 22	B. Reform the nonconforming regional transmission organization to conform to the requirements of subsection 2; or
23 24	C. Form a new regional transmission organization that conforms to the requirements of subsection 2.
25	SUMMARY
26 27 28 29 30 31	This bill requires that, beginning January 1, 2013, investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities be members of a regional transmission organization meeting specific organizational requirements, including compliance with laws governing public records and proceedings, using a public nomination process in selecting board members guaranteeing consumer representation on its governing board and certifying that its rates and actions are just and reasonable to consumers.