



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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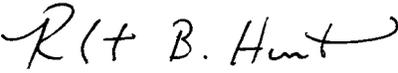
H.P. 923

House of Representatives, March 30, 2023

**An Act to Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to  
Consider the Impact on Low-income Residential Ratepayers When  
Setting Rates**

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

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ZEIGLER of Montville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §301, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 506, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Determining rates.** In determining just and reasonable rates, the commission:

5 A. Shall provide such revenues to the utility as may be required to perform its public  
6 service and to attract necessary capital on just and reasonable terms; ~~and~~

7 B. Shall, to a level within the commission's discretion, consider whether the utility is  
8 operating as efficiently as possible and is utilizing sound management practices,  
9 including the treatment in rates of executive compensation; ~~and~~

10 C. May consider the ability of low-income residential ratepayers to pay the rates and  
11 may design rates to be affordable to low-income residential ratepayers. For the  
12 purposes of this paragraph, "low-income residential ratepayer" means a residential  
13 customer receiving benefits under a state or federal low-income assistance program or  
14 whose family income is equal to or below 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty  
15 line as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget and revised annually  
16 in accordance with the United States Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981,  
17 Section 673, Subsection 2.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to consider the ability of low-  
20 income residential ratepayers to pay when determining just and reasonable rates.