



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 446

S.P. 175

In Senate, February 24, 2015

An Act To Change the Name of the Public Utilities Commission's Consumer Assistance Division

Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator WOODSOME of York.
Cosponsored by Representative DION of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §6-A, sub-§3, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 618, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 E. Director of consumer assistance and safety.

5 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §949, sub-§1, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 618, §4, is
6 amended to read:

7 E. Director of ~~Consumer Assistance~~ consumer assistance and safety.

8 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 420, Pt. A,
9 §30, is further amended to read:

10 A. An administrative director, a director of telephone and water utility industries, a
11 director of electric and gas utility industries and a director of consumer assistance and
12 safety;

13 **Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 420, Pt. A,
14 §31, is further amended to read:

15 A. The general counsel, the administrative director, the assistant administrative
16 director, the director of telephone and water utility industries, the director of electric
17 and gas utility industries and the director of consumer assistance and safety serve at
18 the pleasure of the commission and their salaries must be set by the commission
19 within the ranges established by Title 2, section 6-A.

20 **Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 420, Pt. A,
21 §32, is further amended to read:

22 C. The salaries of the other subordinate officials and employees of the commission,
23 other than those of the general counsel, the administrative director, the assistant
24 administrative director, the director of telephone and water utility industries, the
25 director of electric and gas utility industries, the director of consumer assistance and
26 safety and the staff attorney and utility analyst positions, are subject to the Civil
27 Service Law.

28 **Sec. 6. 35-A MRSA §704, sub-§5, ¶¶A and D**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 614,
29 §2, are amended to read:

30 A. Records containing the following information ~~shall be~~ are confidential and are not
31 public records for the purpose of Title 1, section 402, subsection 3:

32 (1) Information acquired by the ~~Consumer Assistance Division~~ consumer
33 assistance and safety division regarding the payment and credit history and
34 financial condition of a customer who has requested the assistance of the
35 division; and

36 (2) Information acquired by the ~~Consumer Assistance Division~~ consumer
37 assistance and safety division regarding the medical condition of a customer or
38 member of a customer's family.

1 D. The ~~Consumer Assistance Division~~ consumer assistance and safety division shall
2 prepare its decisions or abstracts of decisions in a manner ~~which~~ that protects the
3 confidentiality of customer information as provided by this subsection. Those
4 decisions or abstracts of decisions ~~shall~~ must be available for public access.

5 **Sec. 7. 35-A MRSA §6114, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 573, §4, is
6 amended to read:

7 **4. Consumer assistance and safety division.** The commission shall ensure that
8 customers of consumer-owned water utilities retain access to the services provided by the
9 consumer assistance and safety division within the commission.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This bill adds "and safety" to references to the Public Utilities Commission's
12 consumer assistance division to reflect that the division now also oversees the State's gas
13 safety regulation and enforcement and enforcement of the underground facility damage
14 prevention law.