

§2706. Civil liability for utility services wrongfully obtained

A person may not obtain utility services by deception, threat or force or any other means designed to avoid due payment for the services that the person knows are available only for compensation and a person may not, having control over the disposition of utility services of another to which the person knows the person is not entitled, divert such utility services to the person's own benefit or to the benefit of some other person who the person knows is not entitled to the utility services. A person who violates this section is liable in a civil action to the utility providing the service for: [PL 2007, c. 553, §2 (NEW).]

1. Cost of service. The cost of the utility services wrongfully obtained or diverted plus interest on the value of those services based on an annual interest rate of 5%;
[PL 2007, c. 553, §2 (NEW).]

2. Other costs. All other reasonable costs to the utility, including attorney's fees and costs of undertaking and completing the investigation resulting in a determination of liability under this section; and
[PL 2007, c. 553, §2 (NEW).]

3. Civil penalty. A civil penalty not to exceed \$3,000 due and payable to the utility for each violation of this section.
[PL 2021, c. 318, §9 (AMD).]

A person who is liable under this section may not pass on the cost of that liability, including any civil penalty assessed, to any tenants of that person who received diverted or wrongfully obtained utility services due to the actions of the liable person. [PL 2007, c. 553, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 553, §2 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 318, §9 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.