



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 918

S.P. 273

In Senate, February 21, 2019

An Act Regarding Utility Line Extensions

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §314**, as corrected by RR 2001, c. 1, §44, is amended by
3 adding before subsection 1 a new paragraph to read:

4 Except as otherwise provided in section 316, this section governs private line
5 extensions.

6 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §315**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 484, §1, is amended by
7 adding before subsection 1 a new paragraph to read:

8 Except as otherwise provided in section 316, this section governs transmission and
9 distribution utility line extension construction.

10 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §316** is enacted to read:

11 **§316. Utility line extensions to developments; cost sharing**

12 The commission by rule shall establish requirements for transmission and distribution
13 utilities to share the cost of utility line extensions to developments in accordance with this
14 section.

15 **1. Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "development" means property
16 owned by a person, entity or association for the purpose of creating a subdivision as
17 defined in Title 30-A, section 4401, subsection 4.

18 **2. Cost sharing required.** Rules adopted pursuant to this section must require a
19 transmission and distribution utility to pay the cost of a portion of a line extension to a
20 development as follows:

21 A. For a utility-constructed line extension, the utility shall provide a predetermined
22 portion of the line extension free of charge to the owner of the development; and

23 B. For a privately constructed line extension, the utility shall provide a credit or
24 reimbursement to the owner of the development upon transfer of ownership of the
25 line extension to the utility, in an amount equivalent to the amount that would have
26 been provided free of charge under paragraph A.

27 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
28 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill proposes to require transmission and distribution utilities to share the cost of
31 utility line extensions to subdivision developments. The bill directs the Public Utilities
32 Commission, by rule, to require transmission and distribution utilities to cover the cost of
33 a portion of a line extension either by providing a portion of the line extension free of
34 charge, in the case of utility construction of the line extension, or providing a credit or
35 reimbursement upon transfer of ownership of the line extension to the utility, in the case
36 of a privately constructed line extension.