

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1219

H.P. 894

House of Representatives, March 24, 2021

Resolve, To Facilitate the Modernization and Streamlining of the Utility Pole Attachment Process

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 22, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

- 1 Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission; stakeholder group. Resolved: That, 2 within existing resources, the Public Utilities Commission shall convene a stakeholder 3 group to develop recommendations for the implementation of 3rd-party administration of 4 utility pole attachment joint use under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 711, 5 which must include, but are not limited to:
- 6 1. A framework for ensuring that 3rd-party administrators do not own and are not 7 affiliated with any entity that provides retail telecommunications services in the State;
- 8 2. A framework for divesting providers of retail telecommunications services of all
 9 ownership interest in utility poles; and
- 10 3. A framework for performance-based regulation of utility pole ownership and the 11 administration of utility pole attachment joint use.

In developing the recommendations described in this section and any other stakeholder
 group recommendations, the commission shall to the greatest extent practicable ensure that
 the recommendations reflect consensus among the stakeholder group members.

- 15 Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission; report. Resolved: That, on or before 16 December 1, 2021, the Public Utilities Commission shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology detailing the work of the 17 stakeholder group under section 1 and including proposals and other recommendations to 18 19 implement the recommendations described in section 1. The report must identify any recommendations on which the stakeholder group failed to reach consensus and must 20 21 include a description of the technical specifications, rules or policies necessary to implement the stakeholder group's recommendations, a proposed timeline for 22 23 implementation and any technical or legal barriers to implementation. After reviewing the 24 report, the committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature. 25
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SUMMARY

27 This resolve directs the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder group to 28 develop recommendations for the implementation of 3rd-party administration of utility 29 pole attachment joint use under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 711. The 30 commission is directed to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, 31 Utilities and Technology on or before December 1, 2021 detailing the work of the 32 stakeholder group and including proposals and other recommendations to implement the 33 recommendations. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out a related bill 34 to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.