



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1556

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S.P. 491

In Senate, April 16, 2019

### An Act Regarding Filing Fees in Transmission Line Proceedings

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Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
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 LAWRENCE of York.  
Cosponsored by Senator: WOODSOME of York, Representative: RILEY of Jay.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§10-A**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 26, §1, is  
3 amended to read:

4 **10-A. Filing fee to Office of the Public Advocate.** When a person pays a filing fee  
5 to the commission pursuant to subsection 9, the person shall, at the same time, pay to the  
6 Office of the Public Advocate an amount equal to ~~1/100~~ 2/100 of 1% of the estimated  
7 cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line. If the Office of the Public  
8 Advocate's expenses in the transmission line proceeding exceed the amount of the  
9 original filing fee, the Office of the Public Advocate may bill the person monthly for  
10 additional incurred expenses. The person may, at the time of the filing of the petition  
11 under this section, request the Office of the Public Advocate to waive all or a portion of  
12 the filing fee. The Office of the Public Advocate shall decide on the waiver request  
13 within 30 days.

14 Filing fees paid as required under this subsection must be segregated, apportioned and  
15 expended by the Office of the Public Advocate for the purposes of representing the  
16 interests of consumers in the proceeding before the commission or conducting public  
17 outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding. The Office of the Public Advocate  
18 shall return any portion of the filing fee that is not expended for these purposes to the  
19 person who paid the fee.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 Current law requires that, when a person files with the Public Utilities Commission a  
22 petition of approval for the construction, rebuilding or relocation of a transmission line,  
23 that person must pay, in addition to the filing fee paid to the commission, an additional  
24 filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate equal to 1/100 of 1% of the estimated cost  
25 to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line. This bill increases the amount of the  
26 additional filing fee to 2/100 of 1% of the estimated cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the  
27 transmission line. It also allows the Office of the Public Advocate to recover expenses in  
28 the transmission line proceeding that exceed the amount of the original filing fee from the  
29 person.