

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

—
H.P. 1330 - L.D. 2067

An Act to Continue the Arrearage Management Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the current laws governing arrearage management programs are repealed September 30, 2024; and

Whereas, this legislation proposes to continue transmission and distribution utilities' arrearage management programs for low-income residential customers; and

Whereas, to prevent the repeal of current laws governing arrearage management programs, this legislation must take effect immediately; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 3rd blocked paragraph to read:

No later than January 28, ~~2024~~ 2028, the commission shall prepare a report assessing the effectiveness of arrearage management programs from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027, including the number of participants enrolled in the programs, the number of participants completing the programs, the number of participants who have failed to complete the programs, ~~the payment patterns of participating customers after completing the programs,~~ the dollar amount of arrears forgiven, ~~a comparison of outcomes for those participating in the programs and those not participating,~~ the impact on any participating transmission and distribution utility's bad debt as a result of the programs, the costs and benefits to all ratepayers associated with the programs and recommendations for ways in which the programs might be improved or continued for the benefit of all ratepayers. In preparing its report, the commission shall hold at least one formal stakeholder meeting involving affected parties, including the Office of the Public Advocate and the participating

transmission and distribution utilities. Parties must also be provided an opportunity to submit written comments to the commission regarding the performance of the programs.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 4th blocked paragraph to read:

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities matters may report out a bill relating to the commission report to the Second Regular Session of the ~~131st~~ 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §1, is further amended by amending the 5th blocked paragraph to read:

This subsection is repealed September 30, ~~2024~~ 2028.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §10110, sub-§2, ¶L, as amended by PL 2021, c. 101, §2, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

This paragraph is repealed September 30, ~~2024~~ 2028.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.