



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 83

H.P. 49

House of Representatives, January 13, 2021

**An Act To Clarify the Meaning of "Unserved Area" within the
State's Broadband Service Laws**

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RISEMAN of Harrison.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §9204-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 284, §7, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Establish criteria defining unserved and underserved areas.** The authority, by
5 rule adopted pursuant to section 9205, subsection 3, shall establish criteria to define
6 unserved and underserved areas with respect to broadband service. Criteria established by
7 the authority to define unserved areas must include any geographic area where broadband
8 service is not available or where the speeds available are less than 100 megabits per second
9 for downloads and less than 100 megabits per second for uploads. Criteria established by
10 the authority to define unserved and underserved areas must include the percentage of
11 households with access to broadband service within a municipality or other appropriate
12 geographic area. The authority shall use these criteria to determine those areas of the State
13 that are unserved or underserved.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill clarifies the meaning of "unserved area" within the State's broadband service
16 laws by providing that the criteria established by the ConnectMaine Authority by rule to
17 define that term must include any geographic area where broadband service is not available
18 or where the speeds available are less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and less
19 than 100 megabits per second for uploads.