



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 860

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H.P. 546

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

**An Act to Require Competitive Electricity Providers to Provide  
Certain Information to the Public Advocate**

(EMERGENCY)

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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 cursive script that reads "R(t) B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SACHS of Freeport.  
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and  
Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, GEIGER of Rockland, KESSLER of South Portland,  
MCINTYRE of Lowell, RUNTE of York, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of  
Scarborough, WEBB of Durham.

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

3           **Whereas,** there is an immediate need to determine whether competitive electricity  
4 providers are disproportionately burdening low-income households in Maine with  
5 unaffordable prices; and

6           **Whereas,** delay in the implementation of this legislation would cause significant harm  
7 to Maine electricity ratepayers who are customers of competitive electricity providers; and

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

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

13           **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1702, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2021, c. 659, §13, is further  
14 amended to read:

15           **1. Review and recommendations.** The Public Advocate may review, investigate and  
16 make appropriate recommendations to the commission or the Legislature with respect to:

17           A. The reasonableness of rates charged or proposed to be charged by any public utility  
18 or competitive electricity provider;

19           B. The reasonableness and adequacy of the service furnished or proposed to be  
20 furnished by any public utility or competitive electricity provider;

21           C. Any proposal by a public utility to reduce or abandon service to the public;

22           D. The issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity. Recommendations  
23 may include alternative analyses and plans as necessary;

24           E. Terms and conditions of public utilities;

25           F. Mergers and consolidations of public utilities;

26           G. Contracts of public utilities with affiliates or subsidiaries; and

27           H. Securities, regulations and transactions of public utilities.

28           **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1708,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is amended  
29 to read:

30 **§1708. Information from utilities and competitive electricity providers**

31           Utilities and competitive electricity providers shall provide to the Public Advocate  
32 copies of all reports and other information required to be filed with or ~~which~~ that may be  
33 submitted to the commission, except to the extent that this requirement is waived, in  
34 writing, by the Public Advocate. The Public Advocate has the same right to request data  
35 as an intervenor in a proceeding before the commission, and, in addition, may petition the  
36 commission for good cause shown to be allowed such other information as may be  
37 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

38           **Sec. 3. Office of the Public Advocate report.** The Office of the Public Advocate  
39 may prepare a report and submit it by December 3, 2025 to the Joint Standing Committee

1 on Energy, Utilities and Technology regarding rates and business practices of competitive  
2 electricity providers. After receiving a report under this section, the committee may report  
3 out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

6 **SUMMARY**

7 This bill requires competitive electricity providers to provide the Public Advocate  
8 copies of reports and other information required to be filed with the Public Utilities  
9 Commission.

10 The bill also allows the Public Advocate to make recommendations to the commission  
11 or the Legislature, including the reasonableness of rates charged by a public utility or  
12 competitive electricity provider.