



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 840

H.P. 608

House of Representatives, March 8, 2021

An Act To Prevent Power Line Electrocutions

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford,
GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, McDONALD of Stonington, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §760**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 348, §1, is amended to read:

3 **§760. Indemnification**

4 A person is liable to the owner or operator of the overhead high-voltage line and 3rd
5 parties, if any, for all damages to facilities, injuries to persons and all costs, expenses and
6 liabilities incurred by the owner or operator of the overhead high-voltage lines and 3rd
7 parties, if any, as a result of any contact with an overhead high-voltage line if the person
8 causes, permits or allows any work or activity in violation of a provision of this chapter
9 and, as a result, a physical or electrical contact with an overhead high-voltage line occurs,
10 except that if such damages, injuries and incurred costs, expenses and liabilities are caused
11 by the combined fault of the person and the owner or operator of the overhead high-voltage
12 line, the liability of the person is joint and several with the owner or operator of the
13 overhead high-voltage line.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill amends the Overhead High-voltage Line Safety Act to provide an exception
16 to indemnification by allowing for allocated liability if damages to facilities and injuries to
17 persons is caused by the combined fault of a person and the owner or operator of an
18 overhead high-voltage line.