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Date: (Filing No. H-)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
125TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1342, L.D. 1820, Bill, “An Act To Implement Recommendations To Provide Additional Flexibility for Funding Infrastructure Improvements for Water Utilities”

Amend the bill in section 4 in §6107-A by striking out all of the first paragraph (page 1, lines 17 to 19 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'Notwithstanding chapter 3, a water utility may fund future infrastructure improvements through recovery in rates and fund completed infrastructure replacement or repairs through the establishment of a surcharge in accordance with this section and rules adopted by the commission. Nothing in this section may be construed to exempt any expenditure by a water utility from review by the commission in accordance with this Title.'

Amend the bill in section 4 in §6107-A by striking out all of subsections 2 to 5 and inserting the following:

2. Commission review of capital reserve account. A water utility shall provide to the commission an annual accounting of all revenues deposited into and expenditures made from the water utility's capital reserve account. Money in the capital reserve account is not considered unappropriated retained earnings for the purpose of section 6112, subsection 5.

3. Infrastructure replacement surcharge. A water utility may establish and file, pursuant to section 307, a temporary surcharge to allow recovery of the costs of completed replacement or repairs of water system infrastructure. The temporary surcharge may continue until the water utility's next rate case under chapter 3 or rate filing pursuant to sections 6104 and 6104-A and in accordance with section 6105.

If a water utility elects to institute an infrastructure replacement surcharge pursuant to this subsection, the water utility shall file the proposed surcharge with a justification for the implementation of the surcharge with the commission no less than 30 days before the effective date of the surcharge. The commission may investigate the surcharge in accordance with section 1303 to determine if the surcharge is just and reasonable. If the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 commission investigates the surcharge, the commission shall make its determination
2 within 75 days of the filing and shall approve the surcharge if it is determined to be just
3 and reasonable and deny the surcharge if it is determined not to be just and reasonable.

4 **4. Limitations.** A water utility may not expend amounts collected pursuant to
5 subsection 1 for any purpose other than infrastructure improvements in accordance with
6 this section and rules adopted by the commission.

7 **5. Rules.** The commission shall adopt rules to implement this section, including but
8 not limited to rules governing the maximum amount of funds that may be recovered
9 through rates or surcharges under this section, the authorized uses of those funds and
10 reporting requirements and procedures to ensure that this section is being implemented in
11 a manner that is consistent with just and reasonable rate-making principles, including a
12 requirement that utilities submit an infrastructure needs assessment plan when
13 establishing and using a capital reserve account. Rules adopted under this subsection are
14 major substantive rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.'

15 SUMMARY

16 This amendment clarifies the Public Utilities Commission’s review of a water utility's
17 capital reserve account and requires that, if the commission investigates a water utility's
18 temporary surcharge to determine if it is just and reasonable, the determination must be
19 made within 75 days. The amendment eliminates the requirement that the commission
20 include in rulemaking the types of projects that are eligible for recovery. The amendment
21 requires the commission to require by rule that a plan be submitted if a water utility is
22 going to establish and use a capital reserve account.