



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1784

LR 2707(02)

An Act To Implement Recommendations To Reform Telecommunications Regulation

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill provides a new regulatory structure for the telephone industry. It establishes a regulated basic local flat-rate dial-tone service called the provider of last resort. Such providers will continue to be regulated as public utilities, with some modifications relative to present law. Local exchange carriers also remain subject to Commission jurisdiction to the extent that their federal interconnection rights and obligations are regulated or overseen by the Commission. All other telephone service providers remain unregulated or are largely deregulated. Certain provisions are intended to apply to some of these entities, including provisions relating to certain assessment, granting certain rights to build lines in public roadways and across waters and provisions relating to joint use of facilities. A number of obsolete provisions of law are repealed entirely, as are provisions not in conformity with the regulatory structure established by this bill. The bill will lead to a minor increase in costs to the Public Utilities Commission that can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.