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**Public Law**  
124th Legislature  
First Regular Session

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**Chapter 35**  
**S.P. 43 - L.D. 120**

**An Act Regarding Assistance to Low-income Customers of Gas Utilities**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §4706-A,** as enacted by PL 1999, c. 664, §1, is repealed.

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §4706-B** is enacted to read:

**§ 4706-B. Assistance programs for low-income customers**

**1. Programs.** Each gas utility in the State that serves 5,000 or more residential customers shall offer low-income assistance programs for residential customers who satisfy criteria for low-income assistance as established by the commission in rule. To the maximum extent possible, a gas utility, in adopting and implementing a low-income assistance program under this section, shall seek to encourage conservation in the use of gas by program participants.

**2. Cost recovery.** The commission shall include in rates for a gas utility all costs incurred in compliance with this section and commission rules adopted under this section, as long as such costs have been prudently incurred.

**3. Rules.** The commission may adopt rules necessary to implement this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**4. Report.** The commission shall report on low-income assistance programs offered by gas utilities pursuant to this section within the annual report required under section 120.

Effective September 12, 2009