

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3204-A in subsection 1 by striking out all of paragraphs A, B and C (page 1, lines 9 to 11 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

‘A. Will lower the costs of electricity to consumers in the State; and

B. Will not have a negative impact on the operation of the transmission system.’

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3204-A in subsection 3 in the first line (page 1, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: " **approval** " and inserting the following: " **approval.** "

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3204-A in subsection 3 in the 3rd line (page 1, line 20 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "federal authority" the following: 'without seeking approval for the transmission line from the commission pursuant to section 3132 or'

SUMMARY

This is the minority report of the committee. The amendment makes 2 changes to the bill. First, it removes a direct reference to the public interest under the specific criteria that would allow the Public Utilities Commission to order a divestiture, relying instead on the requirement in current law that the commission considers the public interest in all of its actions. Second, it authorizes the commission to investigate and subsequently order a divestiture if a utility began construction of a transmission line without first seeking approval from the commission, not only after the utility was denied a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)