

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 340

H.P. 214

House of Representatives, January 30, 2023

An Act Regarding the Purpose and Responsibilities of the State Regulatory System for Public Utilities

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative DUCHARME of Madison. Cosponsored by Representative: LAVIGNE of Berwick.

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §101, as amended by PL 2021, c. 279, §1, is further amended to read:

4 §101. Statement of purpose

The purpose of this Title is to ensure that there is a regulatory system for public utilities 5 6 in the State and for other entities subject to this Title that is consistent with the public 7 interest and with other requirements of law and to provide for reasonable licensing 8 requirements for competitive electricity providers. The basic purpose of this regulatory system as it applies to public utilities subject to service regulation under this Title is to 9 10 ensure safe, reasonable and adequate service, to assist in minimizing the cost of energy available to the State's consumers, to ensure that the rates of public utilities subject to rate 11 12 regulation are just and reasonable to customers and public utilities and to reduce 13 greenhouse gas emissions to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels set forth in Title 38, section 576-A educate consumers to make independent and informed utility 14 15 choices.

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SUMMARY

17 This bill removes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the basic purpose of 18 the State's regulatory system for public utilities and instead requires that the regulatory 19 system educate consumers to make independent and informed utility choices.