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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
126TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 173, L.D. 441, “Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Develop a Plan To Reform Water Regulation”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Develop a Plan To Reform Regulation of Consumer-owned Water Utilities'**

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Regulatory reform plan. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," shall develop a plan to reform regulation of consumer-owned water utilities in the State in accordance with the following.

- 1. The plan must be consistent with the following:
  - A. Regulatory burdens must be the minimum necessary to protect the public welfare;
  - B. Regulatory reform may not relieve any provider from complying with environmental obligations under either state or federal law, including but not limited to those relating to the safety of drinking water;
  - C. Regulatory reform may make distinctions between consumer-owned water utilities based on the utilities' available resources and expertise, as well as on the form of local governance;
  - D. Regulatory reform must ensure the continued adequacy of consumer protection regulation, including the maintenance of appropriate limitations on disconnection and collection practices, and must ensure that consumers have adequate mechanisms available to them to resolve complaints fairly and promptly; and
  - E. Regulatory reform must provide a mechanism that ensures that the rates charged by each consumer-owned water utility are just and reasonable, pursuant to the standards of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 301.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 173, L.D. 441

1 utilities for exemptions under the laws governing utilities with as much deliberate speed  
2 as possible, within the constraints of existing resources.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

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**(See attached)**