

CHAPTER 79

TELEPHONE LINES

§7901. Telephone lines

1. Connection between the lines of 2 or more utilities. When the commission, after a hearing, finds that a physical connection can reasonably be made between the lines of 2 or more telephone utilities whose lines can be made to form a continuous line of communication by the construction and maintenance of suitable connections for the transfer of messages or conversations and that public convenience and necessity will be served by the connection, or finds that 2 or more telephone utilities have failed to establish joint rates, tolls or charges for service by or over their lines, and that joint rates, tolls or charges ought to be established, the commission may, by its order:

A. Require that the connection be made, except where the purpose of the connection is primarily to secure the transmission of local messages or conversations between points within the same city or town; [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

B. Require that conversations be transmitted and messages transferred over the connection under such rules as the commission may establish; and [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

C. Prescribe through lines and joint rates, tolls and charges to be made and to be used, observed and enforced in the future. [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

[PL 1995, c. 225, §14 (AMD).]

2. Division of costs between utilities. If the telephone utilities do not agree upon the division between them of the cost of the physical connection or connections or the division of the joint rates, tolls or charges established by the commission over the through lines, the commission may, after further hearing, establish the division by supplemental order.

[PL 1995, c. 225, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A6 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 225, §14 (AMD).

§7902. Lines along highways and across waters

Every entity authorized under section 2301 to construct lines or person transmitting television signals by wire may, except as limited, construct, maintain and operate its lines upon and along the routes and between the points stated in its certificate of incorporation; and may, subject to the conditions and under the restrictions provided in this Title, construct its lines along, over, under and across any of the roads and streets and across or under any of the waters upon and along the routes, with all necessary erections and fixtures. The authority provided under this section applies to a dark fiber provider for the purposes of constructing and maintaining its federally supported dark fiber. [PL 2011, c. 623, Pt. B, §28 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A6 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 225, §14 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 612, §9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 623, Pt. B, §28 (AMD).

§7903. Connection with other telephone lines

Every telephone utility in the State may, upon such terms as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties: [PL 2011, c. 623, Pt. B, §29 (AMD).]

1. Connect lines. Connect its lines with those of any other like utility; [PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

2. Sell or lease lines. Sell or lease its lines and property, in whole or in part, to any other like utility; and
[PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

3. Purchase or lease lines. Purchase or lease the lines and property, in whole or in part, of any like utility.
[PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A6 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 225, §14 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 623, Pt. B, §29 (AMD).

§7904. Land for public use

Every telephone utility in the State may purchase, or take and hold as for public uses, land necessary for the construction and operation of its lines. Land may be taken and damages for it may be estimated, secured, determined and paid as provided for water utilities by sections 6502 to 6512. [PL 1995, c. 225, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 141, §A6 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 225, §14 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.