

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 339**

H. P. 263

House of Representatives, February 6, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Gwadosky of Fairfield.

Cosponsor: Mr. Dexter of Kingfield.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Provide Help to Small Businesses in Dealing with State Statutory and  
Regulatory Requirements.**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA Pt. 15-A, c. 355, is enacted to read:**

**PART 15-A**

**SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE**

**CHAPTER 355**

**OFFICE OF BUSINESS ADVOCACY**

**§ 6501. Office of Business Advocacy established**

There is established, in the Executive Department, the Office of Business Advocacy. This office shall consist of a director, responsible to and appointed by the Governor, to serve at his pleasure, and such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties of the office. These employees shall be hired by the director under the Personnel Law. The director shall be paid a salary fixed by the Governor.

§ 6502. Office; duties

The Office of Business Advocacy shall serve as a central state agency to aid businesses having annual gross revenues of \$1,000,000 or less, hereafter called "small businesses," to comply with state, federal and local laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to those businesses and shall serve as an advocate of the interests of small business. Assistance under this section shall include advising the owners or officers of small businesses of applicable state, federal and local statutes and regulations, and advising them on how to comply with these statutes and regulations. The office may also advocate the interests of small businesses before federal, state and local agencies concerned with those businesses.

§ 6503. Cooperation of other state agencies

Each state agency shall provide the office with all requested information and cooperation necessary to further small business compliance with state statutes and regulations.

§ 6504. Coordination with other levels of government

The office shall, to the extent possible, coordinate its efforts with those appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, other states, counties and municipalities.

**Sec. 2. State agencies to provide information.** Within 60 days after the effective date of this chapter, the director shall contact each state agency which administers statutes or regulations concerning small businesses, requesting them to provide him with a list of those statutes and regulations and, within 120 days after the effective date of this chapter, these agencies shall provide this information to the director.

**Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

|                             | 1979-80      | 1980-81      |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT        |              |              |
| Office of Business Advocacy |              |              |
| Personal Services           | (4) \$33,970 | (4) \$47,474 |
| All Other                   | 3,750        | 5,000        |
| Capital Expenditures        | 5,000        | 1,000        |
|                             | <hr/>        | <hr/>        |
| Total                       | \$53,474     | \$42,720     |

Provides funds for one supervisor, range 24, 2 field examiner I, range 15, and one clerk stenographer II, range 9 and related expense of the office.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes an Office of Business Advocacy which will aid Maine's hard-pressed small businesses to comply with all applicable Maine statutes and regulations.