

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

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Legislative Document

No. 1895

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S.P. 647

In Senate, December 24, 2019

### An Act Regarding Positions at the Public Utilities Commission

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Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 20, 2019. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.  
Cosponsored by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §6-A, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 8, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **3. Other employees.** The salaries of the following employees are within salary  
5 range 53:

- 6 A. General counsel;
- 7 B. Director of telephone and water utility industries;
- 8 C. Administrative Director;
- 9 D. Director of electric and gas utility industries; ~~and~~
- 10 E. Director of consumer assistance and safety; and
- 11 F. Director of emergency services communication.

12 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §949**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 8, §2, is further amended to  
13 read:

14 **§949. Public Utilities Commission**

15 **1. Major policy-influencing positions.** The following positions are major policy-  
16 influencing positions within the Public Utilities Commission. Notwithstanding any other  
17 provision of law, these positions and their successor positions ~~shall be~~ are subject to this  
18 chapter:

- 19 A. General Counsel - Public Utilities Commission;
- 20 B. Director of telephone and water utility industries;
- 21 C. Administrative Director;
- 22 D. Director of electric and gas utility industries; ~~and~~
- 23 E. Director of consumer assistance and safety; and
- 24 F. Director of emergency services communication.

25 **Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 8, §3, is  
26 further amended to read:

- 27 A. An administrative director, a director of telephone and water utility industries, a  
28 director of electric and gas utility industries ~~and~~, a director of consumer assistance  
29 and safety and a director of emergency services communication;

30 **Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 8, §4, is  
31 further amended to read:

- 32 A. The general counsel, the administrative director, the assistant administrative  
33 director, the director of telephone and water utility industries, the director of electric  
34 and gas utility industries ~~and~~, the director of consumer assistance and safety and the

1            director of emergency services communication serve at the pleasure of the  
 2            commission and their salaries must be set by the commission within the ranges  
 3            established by Title 2, section 6-A.

4            **Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 8, §5, is  
 5            further amended to read:

6            C. The salaries of the other subordinate officials and employees of the commission,  
 7            other than those of the general counsel, the administrative director, the assistant  
 8            administrative director, the director of telephone and water utility industries, the  
 9            director of electric and gas utility industries, the director of consumer assistance and  
 10            safety, the director of emergency services communication and the staff attorney and  
 11            utility analyst positions, are subject to the Civil Service Law.

12           **Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 13           allocations are made.

14           **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

15           **Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184**

16           Initiative: Provides funding for 2 Utility Analyst positions and a Senior Consumer  
 17           Assistance Specialist position and associated All Other costs.

18

19	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
20	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	3.000
21	Personal Services	\$0	\$364,565
22	All Other	\$0	\$24,618
23			
24	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$389,183

25           **Emergency Services Communication Bureau 0994**

26           Initiative: Provides funding for one Public Service Coordinator II position and associated  
 27           All Other costs.

28

29	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
30	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
31	Personal Services	\$0	\$106,384
32	All Other	\$0	\$6,431
33			
34	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$112,815

35

36	<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION</b>		
37	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
38			

1	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$501,998</b>
2			
3	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$501,998</b>

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This bill reclassifies the Public Utilities Commission's director of emergency services  
6 communication to be consistent with other commission directors. The bill also adds 4  
7 positions to the commission: a Utility Analyst to perform utility rate case revenue  
8 requirement analysis and other activities; a Utility Analyst to perform communications  
9 and customer outreach activities; a Senior Consumer Assistance Specialist to perform  
10 administrative work in the receipt, analysis and resolution of consumer complaints; and a  
11 Public Service Coordinator II to perform 9-1-1 standards compliance, contract  
12 management and other tasks related to the administration of the Emergency Services  
13 Communication Bureau.