

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 861

Date:

6/3/25 Majority

(Filing No. H- 476)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 547, L.D. 861, "An Act Related to the Work of the Public Advocate"

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

'An Act to Prohibit the Public Advocate and a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission from Certain Employment Activities Following Service'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §124 is enacted to read:

§124. Post-term employment restrictions; commissioners

1. Definition. As used in this section, "employment" means any full-time or part-time work performed for compensation and includes, but is not limited to, consulting and membership on a board.

2. Prohibitions. An individual serving as a commissioner on or appointed to serve as a commissioner on or after December 15, 2025 may not, until 12 months after the completion of the commissioner's service in accordance with section 105, subsection 2:

A. Solicit employment with or accept employment from a public utility in the State; or

B. Appear before the commission for compensation in a commission proceeding on behalf of a person.

3. Penalties. An individual who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, payable to the State.

4. Enforcement. The Office of the Attorney General may investigate alleged violations of this section and bring an action for a violation of this section.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1715 is enacted to read:

§1715. Post-term employment restrictions

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1 **1. Definition.** As used in this section, "employment" means any full-time or part-time
2 work performed for compensation and includes, but is not limited to, consulting and
3 membership on a board.

4 **2. Certain employment prohibited.** An individual serving as the Public Advocate on
5 or appointed to serve as the Public Advocate on or after December 15, 2025 may not, until
6 12 months after the completion of the Public Advocate's service in accordance with section
7 1701, subsection 1-A:

8 A. Solicit employment with or accept employment from a public utility in the State; or

9 B. Appear before the commission for compensation in a commission proceeding on
10 behalf of a person, other than a state agency or quasi-independent state entity, if that
11 person was a party to an adjudicatory proceeding in which the Public Advocate was a
12 party during the Public Advocate's term of service.

13 **3. Penalties.** An individual who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty not to
14 exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, payable to the State.

15 **4. Enforcement.** The Office of the Attorney General may investigate alleged violations
16 of this section and bring an action for a violation of this section.'

17 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
18 number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

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20 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and changes the title. It
21 prohibits the Public Advocate or a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission
22 serving on or appointed on or after December 15, 2025, until 12 months after the
23 completion of the Public Advocate's or commissioner's service, from soliciting or accepting
24 employment from a public utility. It also prohibits, until 12 months after the completion of
25 service, a commissioner from appearing before the commission in a proceeding for
26 compensation and the Public Advocate from appearing before the commission in a
27 proceeding for compensation on behalf of a person, other than a state agency or quasi-
28 independent state entity, if that person was a party to an adjudicatory proceeding in which
29 the Public Advocate was a party during the Public Advocate's term of service. The
30 amendment provides that the law is enforced by the Office of the Attorney General and an
31 individual who violates the law is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per
32 occurrence.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 05/27/25 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 861

LR 2150(02)

An Act Related to the Work of the Public Advocate

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-476)

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund
Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds
Minor revenue increase - General Fund
Minor revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

This bill may increase the number of civil suits filed in the court system. The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional fines and filing fees will increase General Fund or other dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of the Attorney General from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.