

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
104th LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT " A " to H. P. 1447, L. D. 1823, Bill,
"AN ACT Establishing a Consumer's Council."

Amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out everything
after the amending clause (same in L.D.) and inserting in
place thereof the following:

'CHAPTER 212

CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

§ 1361. Membership

There is created a Consumers' Council, hereinafter in
this section called "the council", consisting of 8 members
to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent
of the Executive Council, for terms concurrent with that of
the Governor, not more than 5 of whom shall be members of the
same major political party. The chairman of the council shall
be designated by the Governor from time to time. Said members
shall serve without compensation, but shall receive their
expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their
duties. The council shall meet monthly and at other times at
the call of the chairman.

§ 1362. Duties

The council shall conduct studies, investigations and
research and advise the executive and legislative branches in

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matters affecting consumer interests, coordinate consumers' services carried on by departments and agencies, further consumer education, inform the public, through appearances before federal and state committee, commission or department hearings, or otherwise, of such policies, decisions or legislation as are beneficial or detrimental to consumers, inform the Governor and the Attorney General and other law enforcement agencies of such violations of laws or regulations affecting consumers as its investigations or studies may reveal, and study and report all matters referred to it by the Legislature or the Governor. The council may appear, through its chairman or a member or person designated by him, for and in behalf of the people of the State before boards, commissioners, commissions, departments or agencies of the State in any hearing or matter affecting the rights of the consuming public or in any proceeding seeking the curtailment of transportation services or an increase of rates or costs of services or commodities, and shall be deemed an aggrieved party for the purpose of judicial or administrative review of any decision or ruling in any such proceedings in which it has so appeared, any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding. The council may appoint an executive secretary who shall not be subject to the Personnel Law, and shall, with the approval of the Governor and Council, fix his salary. The council may appoint such other assistants, consultants, investigators and experts as it deems necessary to carry out this chapter. Said council shall be provided

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with offices in the State House or elsewhere in the city of Augusta. It may call upon any department, board, commission or officer of the State or of any political subdivision of the State for such information as it may desire in the course of its duties.

§ 1363. Public hearings; rules

The council, in performance of the duties outlined in section 1362, may hold public hearings and shall establish rules of procedure governing the conduct of its hearings which shall be made available in printed form to each witness prior to his testimony. The Governor may request of the Attorney General such legal assistance as may be necessary in carrying out the duties and functions of the council.'

Filed by Mrs. Coffey of Topsham.

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