

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 576**

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H. P. 427

House of Representatives, January 31, 1973

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rollins of Dixfield.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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### AN ACT Establishing the Office of Constituent Services.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 3, c. 7, sub-c. III, additional.** Chapter 7 of Title 3 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subchapter III to read as follows:

#### SUBCHAPTER III

#### OFFICE OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES

##### § 181. Declaration of policy

The Maine Legislature and its members shall be provided the necessary research and administrative facilities and staff to enable them to assist their constituents more adequately during and between legislative sessions.

##### § 182. Constituent service officer

The Legislative Research Committee shall appoint a constituent service officer. He shall be chosen without reference to party affiliation and solely on the ground of fitness to perform the duties of his office. He shall receive any necessary traveling expenses which shall be paid from the Legislative Account.

##### § 183. Functions and duties

The constituent service officer shall perform the following functions and duties:

1. **Factual information.** Collect such factual information as may be directed by the Legislative Research Committee or by any member of the Legislature to the extent possible.

2. **Constituent service.** Receive, from any member of the Legislature or from any legislative committee, any inquiry or complaint concerning services which may or may not be provided by any governmental unit within the State of Maine. Such inquiry or complaint shall be investigated, processed and answered in accordance with procedures which may be established by the Legislative Research Committee.

3. **Continuation.** Serve as the continuing presence of the Legislature in Augusta during the time when the Legislature is not in session.

#### § 184. Additional duties

Additional powers, duties and procedures may be assigned to the constituent service officer by the Legislative Research Committee. The constituent service officer may employ research associates and secretarial assistance, subject to the Personnel Law and the Legislative Research Committee, if necessary to carry out this chapter.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Office of Constituent Services the sum of \$47,500. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
OFFICE OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES		
Personal Services	(1) \$21,500	(1) \$23,000
All Other	1,500	2,000
	<hr/> \$22,500	<hr/> \$25,000

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide an optional mechanism to facilitate the work of constituent service which is so necessary and so important for Members of the Legislature. This central office will permit the more efficient collection and dissemination of information requested of a Legislator or committee; permit the identification of those agencies which are consistently presenting problems to constituents in several geographic areas.