

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2225

S. P. 778

In Senate, January 2, 1974

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Kelley of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT to Increase Membership on the Public Utilities Commission.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 35, § 1, amended. The first sentence of section 1 of Title 35 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

The Public Utilities Commission, as heretofore established, shall consist of ~~3~~ 5 members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, from time to time upon the expiration of the terms of the several members, for terms of 7 years.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Utilities Commission the sum of \$37,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Personal Services
All Other

1974-75
(2) \$36,000
1,000
\$37,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Public confidence in the Public Utilities Commission has in recent years been low due to the belief among utility customers that the Public Utilities

Commission is not adequately concerned with customer interests. An expansion of the Public Utilities Commission to 5 members would permit greater input into the Public Utilities Commission decisions and should provide Maine utility customers with a greater voice, especially in rate increase decisions.