

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Filing No. H-672)

STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 267, L.D. 315, Bill, "AN ACT to Create the Office of Ombudsman."

Amend said Bill by striking out all of the title and inserting in place thereof the following: 'AN ACT Relating to the Constituent Service Officer.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §169, sub-§§1-4, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 590, §12, are repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

1. Factual information. Collect such factual information as may be directed by the Legislative Council or by any member of the Legislature in accordance with guidelines which shall be established by the Legislative Council;

2. Constituent service. Receive, from any member of the Legislature, from any legislative committee or from any citizen of the State, any inquiry, complaint or request for assistance relating to the activities of any governmental unit within the State of Maine. Such inquiry, complaint or request for assistance shall be researched, processed and answered in accordance with procedures which shall be established by the Legislative Council;

3. Additional duties may be assigned to the constituent service officer by the Legislative Council. The constituent service officer shall be chosen without reference to party affiliation and solely on the grounds of fitness to perform the duties of his office and may employ research associates and secretarial assistance, subject to the Personnel Law and the Legislative Council if necessary to carry out this chapter.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$43,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

|                             | <u>1975-76</u> | <u>1976-77</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL         |                |                |
| Constituent Service Officer |                |                |
| Personal Services           | (2) \$16,000   | (2) \$21,000   |
| All Other                   | <u>4,000</u>   | <u>2,000</u>   |
|                             | \$20,000       | \$23,000'      |

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to amend the existing law that provides for a constituent service officer and provide funding for that office. The constituent service officer shall operate under guidelines to be established by the Legislative Council and shall answer inquiries, complaints and requests for assistance from legislators and citizens of the State. The services provided by the constituent service officer shall include, but not be limited to, the referral of citizens to the appropriate governmental unit and the dissemination of general information pertaining to legis-

lative actions, agency rules and regulations and environmental requirements.

Reported by the Committee on State Government.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk  
of the House.  
6/9/75

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