

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1585

H. P. 1303

House of Representatives, April 2, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Cooney of Sabattus referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Carroll of Limerick.

Cosponsor: Mr. Kelleher of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT Concerning Membership on the Public Utilities Commission.

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

Sec. 1 35 MRSA § 1, 1st sentence, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 687, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The Public Utilities Commission, as heretofore established, shall consist of 5 members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, for terms of 7 years and all 5 members of the commission shall devote full time to their duties. Of these 5 members, 2 shall represent the public utility interests of the State, 2 shall represent the public generally and one shall represent the interest of organized consumer groups in the State.

Sec. 2. Transitional provision. Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act, the Governor shall appoint 5 members to membership on the Public Utilities Commission who shall be representative of the interests set forth in section 1. Of these 5 members initially appointed, one shall be appointed for 7 years, one shall be appointed for 6 years, one shall be appointed for 5 years, one shall be appointed for 4 years and one shall be appointed for 3 years. Vacancies in the terms filled by initial appointment shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of the initial term. After the expiration of the initial term, all appointments to that membership shall be for a term of 7 years.

The members serving on the Public Utilities Commission on the effective date of this Act shall continue to serve on that commission until the confirmation by the Executive Council of all 5 of the initial appointees to the commission under this Act. Upon the confirmation of the 5th initial appointee,

the terms of the members serving on the commission on the effective date of this Act shall expire and the terms of the members initially appointed under this Act shall begin. Members serving on the commission on the effective date of this Act shall be eligible to appointment to the 5-member commission created under this Act.

Nothing contained within this Act shall invalidate any decision or act made by the 3-member commission as long as their terms shall continue.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Utilities Commission the sum of \$73,666 for the biennium to be used to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	1975-76	1976-77
Personal Services	(2) \$27,000	(2) \$36,000
All Other	2,666	4,000
Capital Expenditures	4,000	—
	<hr/> \$33,666	<hr/> \$40,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides for a balanced membership on the Public Utilities Commission.