

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 17**

H. P. 7

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 13, 1976, under Joint Rule No. 6 by Mr. Kelleher of Bangor.  
To be printed and delivered to the House of Representatives of the 108th  
Legislature.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kelleher of Bangor.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Authorizing Municipalities to Raise or Appropriate Money  
for a Consumer Action Program.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, consumer assistance and education is an unmet priority area in some Maine communities; and

Whereas, such services are vitally necessary to those municipalities who wish to raise municipal dollars who are otherwise precluded under current law; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

30 MRSA § 5105, sub-§ 12 is enacted to read:

12. **Consumer action program.** To assist and contribute to a consumer action program organized as a nonprofit corporation for the purposes of processing, investigation and redress of consumer complaints and for the purpose of providing consumer education.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble this Act shall take effect when approved.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

Northeast COMBAT, a private nonprofit corporation of the State of Maine, has dealt with consumer affairs for over 5 years. Their project includes several elements, such as education, individual assistance with consumer complaints, mediation, and issue advocacy, in an educational sense. They have had no source of funding save private donations from consumers and members until this year when they received a grant from the Campaign for Human Development. It is the intent of this bill to amend the law in order to enable those municipalities which wish to utilize or contribute to consumer action programs to do so.