

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 848**

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H. P. 513

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

Speaker laid before the House and on motion of Ms. Goodwin of Bath, referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Allocate \$50,000 for the Support of Northeast COMBAT, Inc., in Order that it may Continue its Comprehensive Program of Service to Maine Consumers, including Individual Assistance, Education and Public Information.**

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Northeast COMBAT, Inc., the sum of \$50,000 to provide for continuation of comprehensive programs of service to Maine consumers.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to provide a base of funding for this unique project which is meeting a high priority unmet need for Maine citizens.

Northeast COMBAT, Inc., is a private, nonprofit (tax-exempt, 501c3) organization which exists solely for the benefit of Maine consumers and taxpayers. Since its incorporation under Maine statute in 1972, Northeast COMBAT has provided a wide-range program of consumer services, primarily through the use of community volunteers.

Northeast COMBAT's services fall into 2 main categories: Individual assistance and consumer education. Since its inception, Northeast COMBAT has helped over 5,000 Maine consumers with their problems, returning over \$114,000 to their pockets.

In only 2 instances where a scientific comprehensive needs assessment was conducted in Maine communities, the population of both communities gave consumer services a high rating as a priority unmet need.

Northeast COMBAT, as an organization which works with state agencies on a daily basis, can also act as a natural grassroots bellweather, identifying cases of waste and abuse. It can engage in healthy and constructive criticism, through appropriate channels, leading to more responsive, effective and economical functioning of the bureaucracy.