

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1485

S. P. 427

In Senate, April 11, 1977

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Merrill of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Provide Help to Small Businesses in Dealing with State
Statutory and Regulatory Requirements.**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA Pt. 15-A, c. 355, is enacted to read:

PART 15-A

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

CHAPTER 355

OFFICE OF BUSINESS ADVOCACY

§ 6501. Office of Business Advocacy; established

There is established, in the Executive Department, the Office of Business Advocacy which shall consist of a director, responsible to and appointed by the Governor, to serve at his pleasure, and such employees as necessary to carry out the duties of the office, who shall be hired by the director under the Personnel Law. The director shall be paid a salary fixed by the Governor.

§ 6502. Office; duties

The Office of Business Advocacy shall serve as a central state agency to aid businesses having annual gross revenues of \$1,000,000 or less, hereafter called "small businesses," to comply with state, federal and local laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to those businesses and shall serve as an advocate of the interests of small business. Assistance under this section shall include advising the owners or officers of small businesses of applicable state,

federal and local statutes and regulations, and advising them on how to comply with these statutes and regulations. The office may also advocate the interests of small businesses before federal, state and local agencies concerned with those businesses.

§ 6503. Cooperation of other state agencies

Each state agency shall provide the office with all requested information and cooperation necessary to further small business compliance with state statutes and regulations.

§ 6504. Coordination with other levels of government

The office shall, to the extent possible, coordinate its efforts with those appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, other states, counties and municipalities.

Sec. 2. State agencies to provide information. Within 60 days after the effective date of this chapter, the director shall contact each state agency which administers statutes or regulations concerning small businesses requesting them to provide him with a list of those statutes and regulations and within 120 days after the effective date of this chapter, these agencies shall provide this information to the director.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Executive Department, Office of Business Advocacy, the sum of \$102,250, for fiscal years 1977-78 and 1978-79 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT		
Office of Business Advocacy		
Personal Services	(5) \$37,500	(5) \$50,000
All Other	3,750	5,000
Capital Expenditures	5,000	1,000
	<hr/> \$46,250	<hr/> \$56,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes an Office of Business Advocacy which will aid Maine's hard-pressed small businesses to comply with all applicable Maine statutes and regulations.