

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 338

H. P. 262

House of Representatives, February 6, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Prescott of Hampden.

Cosponsor: Mr. Davies of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Appropriate \$75,000 to Northeast COMBAT, Inc.

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

**Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80
NORTHEAST COMBAT, INC.	\$75,000
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.