

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 152

6
7 H.P. 127

House of Representatives, January 22, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

9 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Vose of Eastport.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT Relating to the Authority of the
18 General Counsel of the Maine Public
19 Utilities Commission.
20

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

23 35 MRSA §1, first ¶, as amended by PL 1983, c.
24 729, §8, is further amended to read:

25 The Public Utilities Commission, as heretofore
26 established, shall consist of 3 members appointed by
27 the Governor, subject to review by the legislative
28 committee having jurisdiction over public utilities
29 and to confirmation by the Legislature from time to
30 time upon the expiration of the terms of the several
31 members, for terms of 6 years and all 3 members of
32 the commission shall devote full time to their du-
33 ties. Each term shall end on March 31st of the 6th
34 year of the term. A commissioner may continue to
35 serve beyond the end of his term until a duly quali-
36 fied successor is appointed. Any vacancy occurring

1 in said commission shall be filled by appointment for
2 the unexpired portion of the term in which such va-
3 cancy occurs. One member of the commission shall be
4 designated by the Governor as chairman. The commis-
5 sion shall adopt and have a seal and be provided with
6 an office at the State House in which its records
7 shall be kept. The commission shall appoint an admin-
8 istrative director, a director of finance and a di-
9 rector of technical analysis. The director of techni-
10 cal analysis shall have a bachelor's degree in an
11 appropriate field and 4 years' experience in engi-
12 neering, or shall be registered as a professional en-
13 gineer. It shall appoint, with the approval of the
14 Attorney General, a general counsel. All consumer
15 assistance matters shall be under the supervisory au-
16 thority of the general counsel. It shall appoint,
17 subject to the Personnel Law, an assistant to the ad-
18 ministrative director. The administrative director
19 shall keep a full and minute record of the proceed-
20 ings of the commission which shall be open to public
21 inspection at all times. The assistant director shall
22 assist the director in the performance of his duties,
23 and in the absence of the director shall have the
24 same powers as the director. The administrative di-
25 rector shall have authority to certify to all offi-
26 cial acts of the commission, administer oaths, issue
27 subpoenas and issue all processes, notices, orders or
28 other documents necessary to the performance of the
29 duties of the commission. The commission shall have
30 custody and control of all records, maps and papers
31 pertaining to the offices of the former Board of
32 Railroad Commissioners and the former State Water
33 Storage Commission.

34 STATEMENT OF FACT

35 The purpose of this bill is to put the general
36 counsel of the Public Utilities Commission in charge
37 of consumer assistance matters which come before the
38 Public Utilities Commission. This is to ensure that
39 consumer assistance matters will be handled in con-
40 formity with current laws and procedures.

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