

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(New Draft of H.P. 762, L.D. 1025)
(New Title)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1766

H.P. 1288 House of Representatives, June 8, 1987
Reported by the Minority from the Committee on Utilities
and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill sponsored by Representative RYDELL of
Brunswick. Cosponsored by Representatives REEVES of Pittston,
HOLT of Bath and Senator ANDREWS of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Establish a Consumer Advisory Board
2 to Advise the Public Advocate on
3 Public Utilities.
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 5 MRSa §12004, sub-§10, ¶A, sub-¶(73-A)
8 is enacted to read:

9 (73-A) Public Consumer Ad- Legislative 35-A MRSa
10 Utilities visory Board Per Diem §1711
11 and Expenses

12 Sec. 2. 35-A MRSa §1711 is enacted to read:

1 §1711. Consumer participation in utility programs
2 and rate-making proceedings

3 1. Consumer Advisory Board. The Consumer Advis-
4 ory Board, as established in Title 5, section 12004,
5 subsection 10, paragraph A, subparagraph (73-A),
6 shall consist of 7 members, appointed in the follow-
7 ing manner:

8 A. Three members shall be appointed by the Pres-
9 ident of the Senate;

10 B. Three members shall be appointed by the
11 Speaker of the House; and

12 C. One member shall be appointed by the Gover-
13 nor.

14 2. Terms. The members of the board shall serve
15 3-year terms, except that the initial appointments
16 shall be made in the following manner: Of the 3 ap-
17 pointments made by the President of the Senate and
18 the Speaker of the House, one person shall be ap-
19 pointed to a term of 3 years, one person appointed to
20 a term of 2 years and one person appointed to a term
21 of one year. The person appointed by the Governor
22 shall be appointed to a term of 2 years.

23 3. Chairman. The members of the Consumer Advis-
24 ory Board shall appoint a chairman, who shall call
25 regular meetings and make reports to the Office of
26 the Public Advocate.

27 4. General powers. The Consumer Advisory Board
28 shall have the following powers and duties.

29 A. The board shall conduct 6 meetings a year, at
30 least 4 of which must be held when the Legisla-
31 ture is in session. The Public Advocate may as-
32 sist in drafting the agenda and providing infor-
33 mation as needed.

34 B. The board shall cooperate with the Public Ad-
35 vocate to review utility policies.

36 C. The board shall advise the Public Advocate on
37 consumer interests and concerns.

1 D. The board shall recommend appropriate demon-
2 stration programs and rates which are of benefit
3 to residential ratepayers.

4 E. The board may obtain informational data from
5 any public utility.

6 5. Public Advocate response. The Public Advoca-
7 te shall review and respond to all questions raised
8 by the Consumer Advisory Board.

9 6. Annual report. The Consumer Advisory Board
10 shall issue an annual report to the Legislature on
11 January 15th describing the activities of the pre-
12 ceding year.

13 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are
14 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
15 purposes of this Act.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>	
16			
17	<u>EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</u>		
18	Public Advocate		
19	Personal Services	\$2,310	\$2,310
20	All Other	2,100	2,100
21			
22	TOTAL	<u>\$4,410</u>	<u>\$4,410</u>

23 Provides funds to
24 support the Consumer
25 Advisory Board.

26 STATEMENT OF FACT

27 This new draft simplifies the bill, which will
28 allow citizens a greater role in the rate-making pro-
29 cess. The Consumer Advisory Board will cooperate
30 with the Office of the Public Advocate.

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