

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1400, L.D. 1936, Bill, "An Act Authorizing the Public Advocate to Initiate Proceedings on Behalf of Utility Consumers"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'35-A MRSA §1702, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

5. **Intervention on behalf of public.** ~~When--determined necessary-by-the~~ The Public Advocate may, in-the-interest-of on behalf of the using and consuming public, or any particular group of consumers, ~~the-Public-Advocate-may~~ petition to initiate, or intervene and appear ~~on-their-behalf~~ in any proceedings before the commission, appeals from orders of the commission, or proceedings before state and federal agencies and courts in which the subject matter of the action affects the customers of any utility doing business in this State, except that the Public Advocate ~~shall~~ may not intervene in any proceeding in which the commission staff is representing a position substantially similar to that of the Public Advocate, as determined by the Public Advocate.

FISCAL NOTE

The Office of the Public Advocate will be able to absorb the potential cost increases associated with commencing federal proceedings. However, this assumes that the funding of the office by the Public Advocate regulatory assessment in fiscal year 1989-90 will continue beyond June 30, 1990 or will be replaced with a General Fund appropriation. Two other bills have been proposed this session to address this funding issue.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment clarifies the authority being granted to the Public Advocate by stating that the Public Advocate may petition to initiate proceedings.

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Reported by the Committee on Utilities
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2/7/90 (Filing No. H-762)