## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 810

S.P. 241

In Senate, February 6, 1997

An Act to Clarify the Duties of the Office of the Public Advocate.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HARRIMAN of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Senator CAREY of Kennebec.

Вe	it	enacted	by	the	People	of the	State	of	Maine	as	follows:
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Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1702, first  $\P$ , as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A,  $\S$ 6, is amended to read:

The duties and responsibilities of the Public Advocate are to represent the using and consuming public in matters within the jurisdiction of the commission,—including. For purposes of this section, "using and consuming public" means residential and commercial entities whose interests are not being presented before the commission. These duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited, to, the following.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1702, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1989, c. 660, is further amended to read:

5. Intervention on behalf of public. The Public Advocate may, on behalf of the using and consuming public, or any particular group of consumers, petition to initiate, or intervene and appear 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 eustemers using and consuming public of any utility doing business in this State, except that the Public Advocate 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.

## **SUMMARY**

This bill limits the duties of the office of the Public Advocate to representation of residential and commercial users and consumers whose views are not being represented before the Public Utilities Commission.