

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2277

DATE: *March 25, 1998*

(Filing No. S- 613)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1647, L.D. 2277, Bill, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Majority of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy Arising from Its Government Evaluation Act Review of the Office of the Public Advocate"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §116, sub-§8, ¶C-1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 633, §2 and affected by §3, is amended to read:

C-1. Except as specified in this subsection, funds that are not expended at the end of a fiscal year do not lapse but must be carried forward to be expended for the purposes specified in this section in succeeding fiscal years; but, with the exception of funds carried forward from fiscal year 1996-97 to fiscal year 1997-98, unexpended funds in excess of 10% of the total annual assessment authorized in this section must, at the option of the Public Advocate, either be presented to the Legislature in accordance with paragraph A for reallocation and expenditure or used to reduce the utility assessment in the following fiscal year. In the case of funds carried forward from fiscal year 1996-97 to fiscal year 1997-98, 100% of these funds may be expended for the purposes specified in this section.

Sec. 2. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1997-98

1998-99

2 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

4 **Public Advocate**

6 All Other \$60,483
 8 Provides funds from the
 10 unexpended balance at the end
 12 of fiscal year 1996-97 to
 14 cover increased costs
 16 associated with rate cases
 18 and the closing of the Maine
 20 Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

14 **Public Advocate**

16	Personal Services	\$13,000	\$30,000
18	All Other		350,000
20	TOTAL	<u>13,000</u>	<u>380,000</u>

22 Provides for the allocation
 24 of funds to pay salary
 26 increases for the Public
 28 Advocate and the Public
 30 Advocate's staff and to cover
 32 costs of consultants and
 34 expert witnesses to handle
 cases involving electric
 industry restructuring,
 telephone utility regulation
 and the Maine Yankee Nuclear
 Power Plant decommissioning.

34 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

36	TOTAL	<u>\$73,483</u>	<u>\$380,000'</u>
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38 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
 40 nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
 42 consecutively.

42 **FISCAL NOTE**

44		1997-98	1998-99
46	APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS		
48	Other Funds	\$60,483	(\$50,000)
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REVENUES

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Other Funds (\$50,000)

This amendment authorizes the Office of the Public Advocate's unobligated fiscal year 1996-97 Other Special Revenue balance of \$60,483 to be carried forward into fiscal year 1997-98 and provides an allocation of the same amount to support increased costs. It also reduces the All Other allocation in fiscal year 1998-99 by \$50,000 to provide the office with a total increase of \$380,000 in fiscal year 1998-99.

SUMMARY

This amendment authorizes unspent funds in the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund for fiscal year 1996-97 to be carried forward in their entirety for use in fiscal year 1997-98.

This amendment also reduces by \$50,000 the amount of the allocation to the Office of the Public Advocate for fiscal year 1998-99 as proposed in the bill.

SPONSORED BY:

(Senator CLEVELAND)

John J. Cleveland

COUNTY: Androscoggin