

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

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Legislative Document

No. 2277

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H.P. 1647

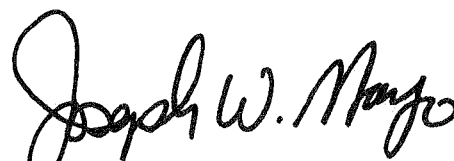
House of Representatives, March 18, 1998

**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.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reported by the Majority from the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy  
pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 955, subsection 4.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

4           Whereas, the Office of the Public Advocate needs immediate  
6 supplemental funding to support its current case load and  
obligations; and

8           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
10 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
12 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

14           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

16           **Sec. 1. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from  
18 Other Special Revenue to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1997-98	1998-99
<b>22 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</b>		
<b>24 Public Advocate</b>		
26           Personal Services	\$13,000	\$30,000
All Other		400,000
28           Provides for the allocation		
30           of funds from the Public		
Advocate Regulatory Fund to		
32           pay salary increases for the		
Public Advocate and the		
34           Public Advocate's staff and		
to cover costs of consultants		
36           and expert witnesses to		
handle cases involving		
38           electric industry		
restructuring, telephone		
40           utility regulation and Maine		
Yankee Nuclear Power Plant		
42           decommissioning.		
<b>44 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$13,000</u>	<u>\$430,000</u>

46           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
48 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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## SUMMARY

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6 This bill provides supplemental funding to the Office of the  
Public Advocate to fund salary increases for the Public Advocate  
and the Public Advocate's staff and to cover costs of consultants  
8 and expert witnesses to handle cases at the Public Utilities  
Commission involving electric industry restructuring and  
10 telephone utility regulation and at the Public Utilities  
Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission involving  
12 issues related to Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant  
decommissioning.