

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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A. G. C.

L.D. 1423

DATE: 4-9-99

(Filing No. H- 196)

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**UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1012, L.D. 1423, Bill, "An Act to Revise the Staffing and Resources of the Office of Public Advocate"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 3 to 6 and inserting in their place the following:

**Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §116, sub-§8, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 591, Pt. CC, §2, is amended to read:

B. The Public Advocate may use the revenues provided in accordance with this section to fund 7 the Public Advocate and 9 employees and to defray the costs incurred by the Public Advocate pursuant to this Title, including administrative expenses, general expenses, consulting fees and all other reasonable costs incurred to administer this Title.

**Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §1701, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Salaries of certain employees. The salaries of the following employees of the Public Advocate are within the following salary ranges:

A. Deputy Public Advocate, salary range 53;

B. Senior Counsel, salary range 36;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1012, L.D. 1423

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C. Economic Analyst, salary range 36;

D. Research Assistant, salary range 30;

E. Business Services Manager, salary range 26; and

F. Special Assistant to the Public Advocate, salary range 20.

The employees listed in this subsection serve at the pleasure of the Public Advocate and are confidential employees. All other employees of the Public Advocate are subject to the Civil Service Law.

**Sec. 5. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2000-01</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</b>		
<b>Public Advocate</b>		
Positions - Legislative Count	(3,000)	(3,000)
Personal Services	\$114,750	\$154,500
All Other	42,000	50,000
Capital Expenditures	8,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$164,750</u>	<u>\$204,500</u>

Provides funds from the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund to establish an Economic Analyst position, a Research Assistant position and a Clerk Typist III position.

<b>Public Advocate</b>		
Personal Services	\$27,750	\$60,000

Provides funds from the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund for the reclassification of the Public Advocate, General Counsel, Counsel, Administrative Assistant and Senior Legal Secretary positions.

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

2 **TOTAL** \$192,500 \$264,500'

4 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
6 summary the following:

8 **FISCAL NOTE**

10 **1999-00** **2000-01**

12 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

14 Other Funds \$192,500 \$264,500

16 **REVENUES**

18 Other Funds \$192,500 \$264,500  
20

22 This bill includes Other Special Revenue funds allocations  
24 of \$192,500 and \$264,500 in fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01,  
26 respectively, for the Office of the Public Advocate for the costs  
28 of 3 new staff positions and to reclassify existing positions.  
30 Of the total, allocations of \$164,750 in fiscal year 1999-00 and  
32 \$204,500 in fiscal year 2000-01 are provided for the salary,  
34 fringe benefit, operating and start-up costs necessary to  
36 establish an Economic Analyst position, a Research Assistant  
38 position and a Clerk Typist III position. Allocations of \$27,750  
and \$60,000 in fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01, respectively,  
are provided to reclassify the 7 currently established positions  
in the Office of the Public Advocate.

The Office of the Public Advocate will increase the  
assessment of utilities to provide the additional dedicated  
revenue necessary for the additional expenditures.'

40 **SUMMARY**

42 This amendment:

44 1. Strikes those portions of the bill granting the Public  
46 Advocate certain new authorities to compel utilities to provide  
information to the Public Advocate;

48 2. Strikes that portion of the bill that designated 6  
50 positions in the Office of the Public Advocate as major  
policy-influencing positions;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1012, L.D. 1423

2           3. Adds a provision establishing titles and salary ranges  
4 for 6 positions in the Office of the Public Advocate;

6           4. Changes a provision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
8 35-A to bring it into conformity with the changes made by the  
bill;

10           5. Corrects the allocation section of the bill to reflect  
12 the actual costs of funding the expansion of the Office of the  
Public Advocate; and

14           6. Adds a fiscal note to the bill.

16           The bill, as amended, adds 3 positions to the Office of the  
18 Public Advocate, increasing the Public Advocate's staff from 6 to  
20 9 positions. It also reclassifies the positions and increases  
the salary of the existing 6 employees of the Office of the  
Public Advocate and establishes their salary ranges in law. It  
also establishes in law the salary ranges of 2 of the 3 new  
positions.