

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 943, L.D. 2473, Bill, "An Act to Promote the Use of an Advocate Staff"

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

'Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1305, sub-§5, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 691, §3 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

C. The commission may assign one or more staff members who are not advisors in a proceeding to serve as advocates to facilitate negotiated settlements in the proceeding. If the commission receives a written request from all of the parties in an adjudicatory proceeding that one or more staff advocates be appointed to facilitate a negotiated settlement in the proceeding, the commission shall either grant the request or issue a written order explaining the reasons why the commission denies the request.'

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

FISCAL NOTE

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with assigning a staff person to facilitate negotiated

RWS

2 settlements in a minimal number of adjudicatory proceedings can  
be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Public Utilities  
Commission.

4  
6 The Public Utilities Commission may require additional Other  
Special Revenue funds allocations if there is a significant  
increase in the number of requests for staff to facilitate  
8 negotiated settlements in adjudicatory proceedings.'

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**SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill. This amendment provides  
that if the Public Utilities Commission receives a written  
request from all of the parties in an adjudicatory proceeding  
16 that one or more staff advocates be appointed to facilitate a  
negotiated settlement in the proceeding, the commission must  
18 either grant the request or issue a written order explaining the  
reasons why the commission denies the request.

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The amendment also adds a fiscal note.