

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 240

H.P. 205

House of Representatives, January 23, 2001

An Act to Permit an Unspent Balance in the Public Advocate Regulatory Fund to be Carried Forward in Full for Fiscal Years 2000-01 and 2001-02.

Submitted by the Office of Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative SAVAGE of Buxton.
Cosponsored by Senator FERGUSON of Oxford.

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

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Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §116, sub-§8, ¶C-1, as amended by PL 1997, c. 719, §1, is further amended to read:

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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 and with the exception of funds carried forward at the end of fiscal year 2000-01 and fiscal year 2001-02 for use in the following fiscal year, 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 and funds carried forward from fiscal year 2000-01 and fiscal year 2001-02 for use in the following fiscal year, 100% of these funds may be expended for the purposes specified in this section.

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SUMMARY

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The Office of Public Advocate is actively participating in a series of proceedings at the Public Utilities Commission, including proceedings involving the ground rules for increased competition for in-state long-distance telephone service and for competition in retail electric service in Maine. The costs of this participation are not fully reflected in the current-year budget for the Public Advocate. This bill enables the Public Advocate to make use of an unspent balance carried forward from fiscal years 2000-01 and 2001-02 in full, rather than merely the 10% portion of that balance that is authorized under current law.