

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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UTILITIES AND ENERGY

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
120TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "*A*" to S.P. 89, L.D. 316, Bill, "An Act to Authorize Representation by the Public Advocate of Consumer Interests on Regional Decision-making Bodies"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

**Whereas,** decisions that will affect ratepayers in Maine are being made at the regional level with regard to the electric wholesale market and it is vitally important that the consumers, through the Public Advocate, have a voice in that decision-making process; and

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

Further amend the bill in section 1 in the last line (page 1, line 11 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "interests." the following: 'Service as a voting member of a regional body in accordance with this subsection does not create or constitute a conflict of interest pursuant to section 1709.'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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

4  
6 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.'

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

10  
12 **'FISCAL NOTE**

14 The additional costs associated with serving as a voting  
member of a regional body that is concerned with matters  
affecting the price and quality of retail utility service in  
16 Maine can be absorbed by the Office of the Public Advocate  
utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

18

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**SUMMARY**

22 This amendment clarifies that if the Public Advocate serves  
as a voting member of a regional body such as the New England  
24 Power Pool, this does not create or constitute a conflict of  
interest. The amendment also adds a fiscal note and an emergency  
26 to the bill.