

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 222

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DATE: 2/4/04

(Filing No. H-670)

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**UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

*MINORITY*

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10 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of  
12 the House.

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
121ST LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 181, L.D. 222, Bill, "An  
Act Providing for Regulation of the Cable Television Industry by  
the Public Utilities Commission"

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Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

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'Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following  
appropriations and allocations are made.

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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**Public Utilities - Administrative Division**

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Initiative: Allocates funds for 2 Utility Analyst positions, one  
senior Consumer Assistance Specialist position, one Consumer  
Assistance Specialist position and general operating expenses  
required to assist in the proposed regulatory function.

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| <b>Other Special Revenue Funds</b> | <b>2003-04</b> | <b>2004-05</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Positions - Legislative Count      | (0.000)        | (4.000)        |
| Personal Services                  | \$0            | \$259,614      |
| All Other                          | 0              | 32,841         |

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|                                   |     |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Other Special Revenue Funds Total | \$0 | \$292,455 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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**DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

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|                             |     |           |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$0 | \$292,455 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|

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|                              |     |           |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$0 | \$292,455 |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------|

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

**R.S.**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 181, L.D. 222

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

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**Public Advocate**

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Initiative: Allocates funds for 2 Consumer Assistance Specialist positions and general operating expenses required to assist in handling complaints from cable television customers.

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| <b>Other Special Revenue Funds</b> | <b>2003-04</b> | <b>2004-05</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Positions - Legislative Count      | (0.000)        | (2.000)        |
| Personal Services                  | \$0            | \$93,819       |
| All Other                          | 0              | 21,287         |
|                                    | <hr/>          | <hr/>          |
| Other Special Revenue Funds Total  | \$0            | \$115,106      |

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**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

| <b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>            | <b>2003-04</b> | <b>2004-05</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>  | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$115,106</b> |
|                                     | <hr/>          | <hr/>            |
| <b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b> | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$115,106</b> |

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| <b>SECTION TOTALS</b>              | <b>2003-04</b> | <b>2004-05</b>   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b> | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$407,561</b> |
|                                    | <hr/>          | <hr/>            |
| <b>SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>   | <b>\$0</b>     | <b>\$407,561</b> |

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy. The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
(See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

**121st Maine Legislature  
Office of Fiscal and Program Review**



**LD 222**

**An Act Providing for Regulation of the Cable Television Industry by the  
Public Utilities Commission**

**LR 0041(02)**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "**

**Committee: Utilities and Energy**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

**Fiscal Note**

|                                   | <b>2003-04</b> | <b>2004-05</b> | <b>Projections<br/>2005-06</b> | <b>Projections<br/>2006-07</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Appropriations/Allocations</b> |                |                |                                |                                |
| Other Special Revenue Funds       | \$0            | \$407,561      | \$412,442                      | \$431,034                      |
| <b>Revenue</b>                    |                |                |                                |                                |
| Other Special Revenue Funds       | \$0            | \$407,561      | \$412,442                      | \$431,134                      |

**Fiscal Detail and Notes**

Requiring the regulation of the cable television industry by the Public Utilities Commission will require additional allocations to the commission of \$292,455 in fiscal year 2004-05, \$299,940 in fiscal year 2005-06 and \$314,156 in fiscal year 2006-07. These estimates are based on the need for approximately 4 staff members to administer this regulatory function. The Public Advocate Office will require additional allocations of \$115,106 in fiscal year 2004-05, \$112,502 in fiscal year 2005-06 and \$116,878 in fiscal year 2006-07 to initially install telephone and computer lines, to purchase computer and office equipment and fill two new Consumer Specialist positions. These new positions are required to handle complaints from cable television customers. It is assumed that under the funding procedures for the Public Utilities Commission and through the establishment of a Cable Regulation Reimbursement Fund, the above mentioned costs would be paid through an assessment on the cable television companies.

In addition, this legislation allows the distribution of funds from the Cable Regulation Reimbursement Fund to municipalities in regulating rates. The exact amount of funds to be distributed to municipalities can not be determined at this time.