

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY

L.D. 347

Date: 5-28-09

(Filing No. S-269)

BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

124TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 111, L.D. 347, Bill, "An Act To Reduce Regulatory Costs for Maine Businesses"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3304-A is enacted to read:

§3304-A. Small Business Regulatory Advocate

1. Small Business Regulatory Advocate. The Small Business Regulatory Advocate, referred to in this section as "the advocate," is established in the office. The advocate must be qualified by education, training and experience in advocacy, policies and assistance for small businesses. The advocate must be an individual who provides technical support to the Maine Regulatory Fairness Board pursuant to section 57, subsection 6.

2. Powers and duties. The advocate shall:

A. Assist small businesses in resolving problems with state agencies and business owners that face hardship as a result of actions taken by a regulatory agency;

B. Identify areas in which small businesses have problems in dealings with state agencies;

C. Propose changes in the administrative practices of state agencies to mitigate those problems identified pursuant to paragraph B;

D. Identify potential legislative changes that may be appropriate to mitigate problems identified pursuant to paragraph B; and

E. Report annually to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters detailing the regulatory assistance provided to small businesses. The advocate may submit recommendations for legislative action the advocate determines necessary to further the purposes of this section.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Departments, agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, other instrumentalities of the State and other governmental units shall assist the advocate in the gathering of information, reports and data that relate to small business assistance.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**Planning Office 0082**

Initiative: Provides funding for one Small Business Regulatory Advocate position at the State Planning Office.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$61,090	\$61,090
All Other	\$39,777	\$39,777
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,867</b>	<b>\$100,867</b>

**SUMMARY**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee and replaces the bill. It establishes the Small Business Regulatory Advocate in order to assist small businesses in resolving problems with state agencies and business owners that face hardship as a result of actions taken by a regulatory agency. It also requires that the advocate must be an individual from the Executive Department, State Planning Office who provides technical assistance to the Maine Regulatory Fairness Board. It further requires the advocate to identify areas in which small businesses have problems in dealings with state agencies, propose changes in the administrative practices of state agencies to mitigate those identified problems and identify potential legislative changes that may be appropriate to mitigate such problems. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)



# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 347

LR 734(02)

## An Act To Reduce Regulatory Costs for Maine Businesses

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"  
 Committee: Business, Research and Economic Development  
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	2009-10	2010-11	Projections 2011-12	Projections 2012-13
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$100,867	\$100,867	\$104,488	\$104,488
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$100,867	\$100,867	\$104,488	\$104,488

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill provides an appropriation of \$100,867 in each year of the 2010-2011 biennium for one new position in the Executive Department, State Planning Office. The newly created position of Small Business Regulatory Advocate will assist small businesses in resolving problems with state agencies and will serve to support the Maine Regulatory Fairness Board.

The additional costs for all other agencies/departments, authorities, boards, commissions or other instrumentalities of the state or other governmental units associated with gathering information, reports and data which may relate to small business assistance can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.