

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 954

H.P. 657

House of Representatives, March 10, 2009

An Act To Clarify the Role of the Public Advocate

Reference to the Committee on Utilities and Energy suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative THIBODEAU of Winterport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BLANCHARD of Old Town, FITTS of Pittsfield,
FLETCHER of Winslow, HANLEY of Gardiner, Senators: SHERMAN of Aroostook,
WESTON of Waldo.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1702**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 27, §1, is further amended
3 by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

4 The Public Advocate must be unencumbered by direction from or approval of the
5 executive branch in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities set forth in this section.

6 **SUMMARY**

7 Under current law, the duties and responsibilities of the Public Advocate are to
8 represent the public in matters within the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission.
9 This bill provides that the Public Advocate must be unencumbered by direction from or
10 approval of the executive branch in fulfilling those duties and responsibilities.