

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/1/14

L.D. 1816
(Filing No. H-784)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1303, L.D. 1816, Bill, "An Act To Address Recommendations from the Report by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability Regarding the Public Utilities Commission"

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

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

Whereas, there are many significant rate cases currently before the Public Utilities Commission for which the services of a consumer advisor are needed as soon as possible; and

Whereas, the consumer advisor position created through this legislation must be created as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the Office of the Public Advocate to collect data related to the performance, duties and future funding of the position in time to report to the 127th Legislature; 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,'

Amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

'Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Public Advocate 0410

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation in fiscal year 2014-15 for a temporary Consumer Advisor position to advise members of the using and consuming public

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROFS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1303, L.D. 1816

1 regarding participation in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission. The
2 position will terminate June 30, 2015.

3	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2013-14	2014-15
4	Personal Services	\$0	\$88,531
5			
6	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$88,531</u>

7 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
8 legislation takes effect when approved.'

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill. It
11 also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

12 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

13 (See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1816

LR 2839(02)

An Act To Address Recommendations from the Report by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability Regarding the Public Utilities Commission

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-784)
Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	Projections FY 2015-16	Projections FY 2016-17
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$88,531	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill creates a temporary Consumer Advisor position, terminating June 30, 2015, to be hired by the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) who will advise members of the consuming public regarding participation in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission. This bill includes an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation to the OPA of \$88,351 in fiscal year 2014-15 to allow expenditures for this purpose. The OPA must submit and prepare a report to the Legislature on the performance, duties and funding of this position. The OPA has indicated that it already has sufficient resources available to fund the allocation.