

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/7/15

L.D. 237
(Filing No. H-53)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 169, L.D. 237, 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 section 4 the following:

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Public Advocate 0410

Initiative: Establishes one Consumer Advisor position to advise members of the using and consuming public regarding participation in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission.

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$102,924 | \$101,033 |
| All Other | \$8,825 | \$8,825 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | <u>\$111,749</u> | <u>\$109,858</u> |

SUMMARY

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 237

LR 559(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-53)

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

| | FY 2015-16 | FY 2016-17 | Projections FY 2017-18 | Projections FY 2018-19 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | |
| Other Special Revenue Funds | \$111,749 | \$109,858 | \$115,729 | \$121,074 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill establishes a Consumer Advisor position within the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) to advise members of the using and consuming public regarding participation in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission. The bill includes an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation in fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 of \$111,749 and \$109,858, respectively, for the position plus support costs. The position was previously established by Financial Order as a Limited Period position and is set to end on June 30, 2015. The OPA has indicated that it already has sufficient resources available to fund the allocation.

The Governor's Proposed Budget for the 2016-2017 Biennium also includes \$111,749 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$109,858 in fiscal year 2016-17 in the Public Advocate program within the OPA to establish this Consumer Advisor position. If this bill is enacted the budget initiative will not be necessary.