

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 487

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S.P. 194

In Senate, February 19, 2021

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### **An Act Regarding Certain Employees of and To Allow Supplemental Funding for the Public Advocate**

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Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 17, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §116, sub-§10** is enacted to read:

3 **10. Supplemental sources of funding.** The Public Advocate may accept funds from  
4 3rd parties, including amounts received as grants, settlement amounts paid in connection  
5 with matters litigated before the commission or in other venues or amounts derived from  
6 any other source that is not prohibited by law. Notwithstanding any provision of this  
7 section to the contrary, the Public Advocate may expend funds received pursuant to this  
8 subsection in its discretion to fulfill its duties as set out in section 1702, subject to any  
9 conditions or restrictions attached to such grants, settlement amounts or other funding  
10 source that is not prohibited by law.

11 **Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1701, sub-§3, ¶E,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 226, §2, is  
12 further amended to read:

13 E. ~~Business Services Manager~~ Senior Assistant to the Public Advocate, salary range  
14 26;

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill changes the title of the Business Services Manager position to Senior Assistant  
17 to the Public Advocate to clarify that a person in the position may perform duties aside  
18 from business-related duties. The bill also clarifies that the Public Advocate may legally  
19 accept funds from sources other than an assessment on utilities for the purpose of carrying  
20 out its statutory duties.