

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the first indented paragraph after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

‘**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1701, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1701, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Appointment of the Public Advocate; term; removal. This subsection governs the appointment, term of service and removal of the Public Advocate.

A. The Governor shall appoint the Public Advocate, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public utilities matters and to confirmation by the Legislature.

B. The Public Advocate shall serve for a 4-year term of office, beginning on February 1, 2013 and every 4 years thereafter.

C. The Public Advocate may continue to serve beyond the end of the 4-year term until a successor is appointed and qualified.

D. Any vacancy occurring must be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term.

E. Any willful violation of this chapter by the Public Advocate constitutes sufficient cause for removal of the Public Advocate by the Governor, on the address of both branches of the Legislature or by impeachment pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 5.

Sec. 3. Transition of Public Advocate. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 1701, subsection 1-A, paragraph B, the term of the Public Advocate holding that office on the effective date of this Act ends on January 31, 2013.’

SUMMARY

This amendment applies the provisions of Committee Amendment "A" regarding the appointment and removal of the Public Advocate to the current Public Advocate, except that this amendment specifies that the term of office of the current Public Advocate expires January 31, 2013. This amendment also removes the working group proposed in Committee Amendment "A."