



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1452

LR 2280(02)

## An Act to Require the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission to Be Popularly Elected

### Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$2,800,000	\$0
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$2,800,000	\$498,594
<b>Revenue</b>				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$498,594
<b>Transfers</b>				
General Fund	\$0	(\$1,200,000)	(\$2,800,000)	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$2,800,000	\$0

Referendum Costs	Month/Year	Election Type	Question	Length
	Nov-26	General	Election	Standard

The Secretary of State's budget includes sufficient funds to accommodate one ballot of average length for the general election in November. If the number or size of the referendum questions requires production and delivery of a second ballot, an additional appropriation of \$266,000 may be required.

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes 2 additional members of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and directs that these members are elected instead of appointed. The bill also provides that candidates for these elections are eligible for funding under the Maine Clean Elections Act (MCEA). Under current statute, the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices may request additional funding in the form of a transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund if the number of candidates qualifying for funding under the MCEA exceeds the funding available. The bill includes a transfer and allocation of \$1,200,000 in the fiscal year 2024-25 and estimates an additional transfer and allocation of \$2,800,000 will be required in fiscal year 2025-26 for additional candidates running for the elected PUC Commissioner positions. The PUC will require allocations of \$498,594 starting in the fiscal year 2026-27 for the salary and benefits related to the 2 additional positions once they are elected.