

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
S.P. 194 - L.D. 487

**An Act Regarding Certain Employees of and To Provide for the Payment of
Certain Filing Fees to the Public Advocate**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §708, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Filing fee to Office of the Public Advocate. When an applicant pays a filing fee to the commission pursuant to subsection 4, the applicant shall, at the same time, pay to the Office of the Public Advocate a filing fee not to exceed 3/100 of 1% of the total transaction value of the reorganization, as determined by the commission, if the office determines that the application may involve issues that would necessitate significant additional costs to the office. The applicant may request the Office of the Public Advocate to waive all or a portion of the filing fee. The Office of the Public Advocate shall decide on the waiver request within 30 days.

Filing fees paid as required under this subsection must be segregated, apportioned and expended by the Office of the Public Advocate for the purposes of representing the interests of consumers in the proceeding before the commission or conducting public outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding. The Office of the Public Advocate shall return any portion of the filing fee that is not expended for these purposes to the applicant who paid the fee.

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

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

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3132, sub-§10-A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 177, §1, is further amended to read:

10-A. Filing fee to Office of the Public Advocate. When a person pays a filing fee to the commission pursuant to subsection 9, the person shall, at the same time, pay to the Office of the Public Advocate an amount equal to 2/100 of 1% of the estimated cost to erect, rebuild or relocate the transmission line, except that in the case of a petition filed under subsection 2, the fee is 3/100 of 1%. If the Office of the Public Advocate's expenses

in the transmission line proceeding exceed the amount of the original filing fee, the Office of the Public Advocate may bill the person monthly for additional incurred expenses. The person may, at the time of the filing of the petition under this section, request the Office of the Public Advocate to waive all or a portion of the filing fee. The Office of the Public Advocate shall decide on the waiver request within 30 days.

Filing fees paid as required under this subsection must be segregated, apportioned and expended by the Office of the Public Advocate for the purposes of representing the interests of consumers in the proceeding before the commission or conducting public outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding. The Office of the Public Advocate shall return any portion of the filing fee that is not expended for these purposes to the person who paid the fee.