

Executive Department

PUBLIC ADVOCATE 0410

What the Budget purchases:

The Public Advocate represents Maine utility consumers in matters overseen by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) so that consumers have affordable, high quality utility services, and seeks to carry out this representation in a principled, diligent and compassionate manner. The advocacy role includes negotiating for the lowest feasible level of rates and for the delay of increases when supported by adequate evidence; implementing policy set by the PUC, the Governor, and the Legislature; maintaining frequent and consistent contact with ratepayer organizations, individual consumers and their representatives in order to better identify emerging problems affecting service quality for utility customers; pursuing in federal agency proceedings and courts each of these objectives in order to protect the interests of Maine ratepayers; and working with ISO-NE and being a member of the NEPOOL to stabilize and lower electricity prices for Maine and the northeast region.

	<u>Actual</u> 2019-20	<u>Current</u> 2020-21	<u>Budgeted</u> 2021-22	<u>Budgeted</u> 2022-23
Program Summary - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Positions - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Personal Services	1,299,544	1,308,115	1,374,869	1,387,742
All Other	2,017,571	2,016,071	2,016,071	2,016,071
Total	3,317,115	3,324,186	3,390,940	3,403,813

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Initiative: Continues one Economic Analyst position previously continued by Financial Order 001055 F1 and makes the position permanent as authorized in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 1701, subsection 3. Also, provides funding for related All Other costs.		

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Personal Services	32,025	31,918
All Other	536	534
Total	32,561	32,452

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Initiative: Establishes one Office Specialist I position to bring staffing level to ten employees as authorized in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 116, subsection 8 and provides funding for related All Other costs.		

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Positions - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
Personal Services	82,662	86,626
All Other	1,384	1,450
Total	84,046	88,076

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Initiative: Provides funding for projected increases in operational expenditures.		

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other	12,550	12,660
Total	12,550	12,660

	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with current revenue projections.		

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other	150,000	150,000
Total	150,000	150,000

	<u>Actual</u> 2019-20	<u>Current</u> 2020-21	<u>Budgeted</u> 2021-22	<u>Budgeted</u> 2022-23
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Revised Program Summary - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Positions - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9,000	9,000	10,000	10,000
Personal Services	1,299,544	1,308,115	1,489,556	1,506,286