

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
117TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 187, L.D. 246, Bill, "An Act to Require Legislators to Pay a Portion of Their Health and Dental Insurance Premiums"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act to Reduce Legislative Benefits'**

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§7,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 776, §1, is further amended to read:

**7. Payment by State.** Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the State, through the commission, shall pay 100% of only the employee's share of this health plan, except for Legislators, for whom the State shall pay 80% of the Legislators' share and 50% of the health plan premium for dependent coverage. The State may not pay any of the Legislators' share of the dental plan. For any person appointed to a position after November 1, 1981, who is employed less than full time, the State shall pay a share of the employee's share reduced pro rata to reflect the reduced number of work hours.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1996-97**

**LEGISLATURE**

**Legislature**

Personal Services (\$82,900)

Deappropriates funds as a result of savings from the reduction in the employer share of Legislators' health insurance and the elimination of the employer share of dental insurance.

**Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect December 1, 1996.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

**FISCAL NOTE**

**1996-97**

**APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

General Fund (\$82,900)

Decreasing the employer share of Legislators' health insurance benefits and eliminating the employer share of Legislators' dental insurance benefits effective December 1, 1996 will result in a General Fund deappropriation to the Legislature of \$82,900 in fiscal year 1996-97. Beginning in fiscal year 1997-98, annual health insurance savings will approximate \$165,900.'

**STATEMENT OF FACT**

This amendment replaces the bill and allows the State to contribute 80% of the employees cost of health benefits after December 1, 1996. Legislators may still participate in the health plan by paying 20% of the premium. The amendment also prohibits the State from paying any portion of the Legislators' share of the dental plan. The amendment also adds the necessary fiscal note.