

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AUGUSTA

March 22, 1938

R. Gordon Wagenet, Director  
Bureau of Unemployment Compensation  
Social Security Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wagenet:

I have your letter of February 25, 1938, which was received March 1, 1938, and first I want to apologize for the delay in replying to it. I have been out of my office in the State House practically all of the time since March 1st, engaged in the trial of cases and the work here in the office piled up on me during that period.

In reply to the first question in your letter, at the top of Page 2, you ask what is the statutory authority for the action of the Governor and Council in lapsing and transferring to the General Funds the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the Bureau of Accounts and Control. I am enclosing a copy of Chapter 106 of the Private and Special Laws of 1937, and the last paragraph which I have marked in pencil, in my mind, was sufficient authority for the passage of the Order of the Governor and Council, dated January 21, 1938.

In answer to your Question No. 2, the Governor and Council in setting up the new method of handling the work of the Bureau of Accounts and Control were entitled to consider the obvious intent of the Legislature as expressed in the Act which provided that from the general highway and liquor commission funds there should be paid the amounts necessary for their respective accounting. These are the two largest state departments, with the exception of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, and their accounting places a very large burden on the Bureau of Accounts and Control. It seemed to the Council and to me a very proper and business-like procedure to adopt.

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In answer to Question No. 3. The Controller tells me that he sent to your office some time ago a copy of the method of computation which he used in arriving at the proper amount per check to be charged to each department, and I am enclosing a copy of that method of computation which, it seems, was worked out very carefully and furnishes a scientific and accurate method of allocating these costs to the departments to which they should properly be charged.

In answer to your Question No. 4. I can say to you that there are no funds which are available for the operation of the Bureau of Accounts and Control in the Treasury at this time.

I trust that the above is sufficient answer to the questions contained in your letter.

Very truly yours,

Franz J. Burkett  
Attorney General

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