

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

for the calendar years
1951 - 1954

We would therefore appreciate your accepting this assignment, in view of the law, and accordingly reserve for the State the amount of money stated therein, namely \$71.60.

ROGER A. PUTNAM
Assistant Attorney General

December 31, 1953

To Norman U. Greenlaw, Commissioner of Institutional Service
Re: Invoice for Reportorial Service

You have made inquiry of this office whether or not it is proper for an institution of the State to pay a bill rendered by a reporter for a transcription of testimony in a case before the Industrial Accident Commission, where the State institution was a party under the Workmen's Compensation Act and the transcript was called for by the institution's counsel. Counsel for such institution is the Attorney General or his designated Assistant.

Claims by State employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act are by law assigned for settlement to the Attorney General, as are all such claims against the State.

The settlement of these claims may be defended before courts or commissions or may be compromised as agreed to by the Attorney General or, with his authority, by his Assistant.

As is usual, the counsel speaks for his client and the engaging of witnesses and the record of a hearing are usual expenses attendant upon such proceedings.

Hence it is that this office is of opinion that the employing department or institution should make payment of the item referred to.

JAMES G. FROST
Deputy Attorney General

January 5, 1954

To Hon. Burton M. Cross, Governor of Maine
Re: Duties of Chairman, Highway Commission

This office has been asked to interpret Chapter 398 of the Public Laws of 1953 in so far as it affects the duties of the Chairman to be appointed under the provisions of the Act, particularly with reference to Section 4 of Chapter 20 of the Revised Statutes. The last sentence of Chapter 398, which amends Section 3 of Chapter 20, R. S., provides:

"The chairman shall be the chief administrative officer, having general charge of the office and records, but all policy decisions of the commission must be by a majority of its total membership."

This section, imposing additional duties upon the chairman, removes from the chief engineer the general charge of the office and records, such charge having been granted him by Section 4 of Chapter 20. While the "general charge of the office and records" is directly dealt with by the new Act, and