

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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July 21, 1955

To Harlan H. Harris, State Controller
Re: Salary of Clerk of the House

You have asked us for an interpretation of the provisions of Section 5, Chapter 482, Public Laws 1955.

The section referred to defines the salaries and duties of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of the House. With respect to the salary of the Clerk, the pertinent portion reads as follows:

"He shall receive a salary of \$5,000 for the year in which the Legislature is in regular session and a salary of \$1,000 for the year in which the Legislature is not in regular session."

Relative to the above-quoted section of the law, you ask if the present Clerk of the House, who has already been paid \$4,500, is eligible to be paid \$500 for the remainder of the calendar year.

We are of the opinion that the Clerk of the House, in receiving \$4,500, has not been completely reimbursed for his year's service, and is entitled to another \$500 for services rendered during the remainder of the present calendar year.

The chapter with which we are concerned, Chapter 482, Public Laws 1955, is in the ordinary form, not being emergency legislation, and as a result becomes effective the middle of August in the year 1955. The Clerk, of course, is still in office and other portions of Section 5 impose upon him many duties including interim custody of all the legislative property and material and the arranging for necessary supplies, service and equipment for incoming sessions of the Legislature. The nature of the Clerk's continuing employment throughout the remainder of the year compels us to the conclusion that it is the intent of the Legislature that he receive during the present calendar year the sum of \$5,000, the same being in full compensation for his services.

Frank F. Harding
Attorney General