

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 4, 1964

Captain Ralph E. Staples, Director  
Division of Special Services  
Wayne B. Hollingsworth, Assistant

State Police  
Attorney General

Police Matrons

**FACTS:**

On occasion it has become necessary for State Police Officers to obtain the services of a police matron after making an arrest and incarcerating a female prisoner in a local jail.

**QUESTION:**

Whether or not the fees charged by a matron are to be paid by the Department of State Police or by the County Commissioner within the county in which the arrest was made.

**ANSWER:**

See opinion.

**OPINION:**

We have studied all applicable statutes, rulings, and case law, but we are unable to find an answer that would bear directly on this problem. For an opinion on the use of municipal jails by State Police, I call your attention to an opinion from this office sent to Major Parker Hennessey from Deputy Attorney General George C. West dated 3 December 1963. This opinion does not, however, attempt to answer any of the questions requested pertaining to responsibility for paying the matrons. We are unable to answer your question with a categorical answer, but I do call your attention to Chapter 436 of the Public Laws of 1963 passed at the Special Session in January, 1964, and effective 17 January 1964. It would not be an illegal expenditure for the State Police to follow the same provisions as enumerated in Chapter 436.

**CONCLUSION:**

This matter is deemed to be administrative and as such is left to the parties involved to be worked out as they see fit.

Wayne B. Hollingsworth  
Assistant Attorney General

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