

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 16, 1967

Allen Pease, Administrative Asst.

Executive

George C. West, Deputy

Attorney General

**Governor's Traveling Expenses**

You have verbally requested an opinion from this office concerning the traveling expenses of the Governor. We can find no previous opinions on this subject in this office.

2 M.R.S.A. § 2 sets up the "Governor's Expense Account." The legislature appropriates a sum to this account for each year of the biennium. The money is available for expenditure by the Governor at his discretion. The account is not subject to audit, except as to total amount to be paid.

This law was enacted by Public Laws 1943, Chapter 187. A search of the Legislative Record for 1943 reveals no debate on the floor of either house. We can only conjecture what the legislature intended. The account is not audited except as to total amount to be paid. This account may well be used to pay the Governor's traveling expenses without audit or limitation by travel regulations.

On the other hand, the question is asked if this is an exclusive source of payment of the Governor's traveling expense. The answer would be "No." 5 M.R.S.A. § 1581 sets forth the form of an appropriation bill. One portion is the "All Other" category. It is from this category that travel expense is paid.

We know of no reason why the Governor cannot submit an expense account covering travel and charge it to the Executive Department "All Other" appropriation. In doing this, however, he submits himself to travel regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Finance and Administration and approved by himself and the Council. He is in the same position as any state employee when he seeks reimbursement for his own money expended for travel.

GCW:H

George C. West  
Deputy Attorney General