

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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May 28, 1976

Honorable James S. Henderson
204 Maple Street
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear Jim:

This responds to your inquiry of May 21, 1976. In that inquiry you ask whether payment of expenses for spouses of County Commissioners on trips on county business was within the law. Please be advised that the matter is covered by 30 M.R.S.A. § 106 which provides, in part: "When outside of the county seat on official business . . . all county commissioners shall be allowed, in addition to their salaries, all necessary travel and hotel expenses connected therewith."

This provision would appear to indicate that county commissioners may receive compensation for "necessary" travel and hotel expenses but not otherwise. We think it unlikely that payments for spouses to accompany county commissioners would be a "necessary" expense. However, this is a matter which should be ruled on in the first instance by the District Attorney based on the specific facts of the situation.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Attorney General

JEB/ec