

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1005

S. P. 303

In Senate, February 4, 1965

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Harding of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Create the Office of Public Defender.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 30, part 1, c. 1, sub-c. III-A, additional. Chapter 1 of part 1 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subchapter to read as follows:

‘SUBCHAPTER III-A

PUBLIC DEFENDERS

§ 581. Office created

The county commissioners of any county, upon request of the majority of the members of the bar of such county in attendance at a meeting duly and legally called therefor, shall establish the office of public defender for the county. Any county may join with one or more counties to establish and maintain the office of public defender to serve such county.

§ 582. Appointment

After the office of public defender is established the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint a member of the bar in said county or counties who has been admitted to practice law to fill the office of public defender.

§ 583. Duty

It shall be the duty of the public defender to represent and act as attorney for indigent defendants or respondents in such appropriate cases as shall be referred to him by the Superior or District Courts.

§ 584. Office; expenses

In each county the county commissioners shall provide suitable rooms for the use of the public defender and office furniture and supplies with which to properly conduct the business of his office. Such expenses are a charge upon the county or counties in which the public defender is employed.

§ 585. Printing briefs

The expense of printing the briefs on appeal on behalf of a defendant represented by a public defender is a county charge.

§ 586. Salary

The annual salary of each public defender shall be such as may be fixed by the county or counties.