

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 56

S. P. 13

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 27, 1974 under Joint Rule 6 by Mr. Jackson of Cumberland.
To be printed and delivered to the Senate of the 107th Legislature.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Senator Jackson of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

**AN ACT Relating to Salary, Expenses and Travel of Members
of the Legislature.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the current economy, with its combination of rising prices and falling tax revenues, is a cause of great concern to the people of the State of Maine; and

Whereas, the people of Maine expect the Legislature to act as fiscal leaders in this time of economic difficulty and to provide an example for the citizens of Maine to follow; and

Whereas, it is vital that the Legislature exercise this example immediately and that it take what steps it can to cut down on its own expenses; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

3 **MRSA, § 2, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1973, c. 781, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

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

Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday of January, 1975, shall receive \$2,850 in the first year and \$1,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium. Each member of the Senate

and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday of January, 1977, shall receive \$2,850 plus an increase beginning in 1977 equivalent to the increase of the cost of living as determined by the Consumer Price Index of the United States Department of Labor in the first year and \$1,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium, and shall be paid for travel at each legislative session once each week at the same rate per mile to and from his place of abode as state employees receive, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for travel on the Maine Turnpike provided they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such tolls to be reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments. He is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and such amounts of his salary at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session, and the balance at the end thereof.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

FISCAL NOTE

It is estimated that the passage of this bill would result in a savings to the State of \$167,850 in the 1974-75 fiscal year.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the present law concerning legislative compensation that was enacted by the Special Session of the 106th Legislature, and to replace it with a new schedule for legislative compensation.

The increase in expenses and travel that were passed in the last special session will adequately compensate Legislators this biennium. The first year compensation of \$2,850 was based on a cost of living increase of 13% added onto \$2,500.

This bill with its cost of living clause in the First Annual Session would save the taxpayers approximately \$167,850 in the personal services budget of the legislative branch during the 1974-75 fiscal year.