

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2015

H. P. 1846

House of Representatives, January 20, 1976

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Smith of Dover-Foxcroft.

Cosponsor: Mr. Palmer of Nobleboro.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SIX

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**AN ACT Increasing State, Maine Maritime Academy and University of  
Maine Employees' Pay.**

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

Whereas, the cost of living in the United States has risen dramatically; and

Whereas, industrial wages in the United States and in the State of Maine have risen in an attempt to keep pace with the spiral of inflation; and

Whereas, State, Maine Maritime Academy and University of Maine employees have enjoyed no like abatement of the steady diminution of their real wages; and

Whereas, this legislation is vitally necessary to provide a wage increase for State, Maine Maritime Academy and University of Maine employees to absorb at least in part the impact of double-digit inflation and to restore wages to a respectable level; 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,

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

**Sec. 1. Wage increase.** Effective with the first pay period in January, 1976, an amount described below shall be added to the weekly dollar amount of each step of the appropriate Pay Range of the current State Salary Plan.

Amount	Pay Range
\$10.00	1 and 2
9.50	3 and 4
9.00	5 and 6
8.50	7 and 8
8.00	9 and 10
7.50	11 and 12
7.00	13
6.50	14
6.00	15
5.50	16
5.00	17
4.50	18
4.00	19
3.50	20
3.00	21
2.50	22
2.00	23
1.50	24
1.00	25
.50	26

Effective with the first pay period in July, 1976, an equal amount shall be added to the weekly dollar amount of each step of the appropriate Pay Range of the State Salary Plan. In both instances, new hourly rates shall be computed to reflect these increases, based on a 40-hour week. Weekly amounts shall be rounded to the nearest 10¢.

**Sec. 2. Unclassified employees subject to Governor and Council determination.** With respect to unclassified employees whose wage rates are subject to Governor and Council determination, the Governor and Council shall grant similar and equitable treatment to all individuals currently holding such positions.

**Sec. 3. Unclassified employees not subject to Governor and Council determination.** With respect to unclassified employees whose wage rates are

not subject to determination by the Governor and Council, the authorities responsible for determining the wage rates of such employees shall grant similar and equitable treatment.

**Sec. 4. Utilization by other funds.** Wages of employees in departments supported by the Highway Fund, Special Revenue Funds or other funds shall not be adjusted from moneys provided for the General Fund Salary Plan Fund, but shall be adjusted from funds available to the departments from their own sources.

**Sec. 5. University of Maine and Maine Maritime Academy.** Wages of the University of Maine and the Maine Maritime Academy shall be adjusted in the same manner as state employees. Funds appropriated shall be paid to the University of Maine and the Maine Maritime Academy on a quarterly basis according to a plan approved by the State Budget Officer and on the basis of detailed justification furnished to the State Controller.

**Sec. 6. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$1,852,657 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976 and the sum of \$7,422,751 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1977. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
SALARY PLAN FUND		
State Employees' Fund	\$1,852,657	\$7,422,751

Any balance remaining in this fund shall carry forward until June 30, 1977 to be used for the same purposes.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved and shall be effective with the first pay period in January, 1976.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The cost of living in the United States rose 28.5% in the 36-month period from June 1972 to June 1975. Average hourly earnings of production workers in manufacturing in the United States rose 25.6%, and in the State of Maine 26.6%, during the same period of time. State employees' wages were increased by 5% or \$8 in October 1973 and in April 1974. The purpose of this Act is to provide a wage increase for State, Maine Maritime Academy and University of Maine employees to absorb at least in part the impact of double-digit inflation and to restore wages to a respectable level.

It should be noted that the cost estimates may be high. Estimates were based on June 1975 payroll figures. Since that time, the population of State employees has been reduced due to attrition. (June 1975 Payroll: 11,439 employees at or below Pay Range 26; October 7, 1975, Office of State Employee Relations: 10,234 employees at or below Pay Range 26).