

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2087

S. P. 663

In Senate, January 26, 1976

Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Curtis of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT to Establish the Dates of Legislative Sessions and to Clarify Laws  
Relating to Expenses of Legislators.

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA § 2, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 51, is further amended to read:

§ 2. Dates of legislative sessions, salary, expenses and travel of Members of Legislature and Representatives of Indian tribes

Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday of January, ~~1975~~ 1977, shall receive ~~\$3,750~~ \$5,000 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 and thereafter, shall receive \$5,000 in the first year and \$1,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium and \$4,000 expenses for the first regular session 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 where 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 to his salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session, and the balance at the end thereof. The first regular session of the Legislature shall adjourn not later than the last day of May.

~~Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives shall receive a meal and housing allowance in the amount of \$25 for each day in attendance at sessions of the Legislature and for each day he occupies overnight accommodations away from home immediately preceding attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member shall be entitled to a daily meal allowance in the amount of \$12 and actual daily mileage allowances in an amount up to but not exceeding \$13 per day. Each member shall also receive an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$200~~

Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday of January, 1978, shall receive \$25 for every day's attendance for the 2nd regular session and \$2,000 expenses and travel for the 2nd 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. He is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and such amounts of his salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session and the balance at the end thereof. The 2nd regular session of the Legislature shall adjourn not later than the 15th day of March.

Each member of the Senate shall receive an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$600.

Each member of the House of Representatives shall receive an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$300.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall receive an additional 50% above regular compensation, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives shall receive an additional 25% above regular compensation and the assistant majority and minority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives shall receive an additional 12½% above regular compensation. ~~Any member acting as President pro tempore of the Senate, or Speaker pro tempore of the House, shall receive \$2 a day extra therefor~~

No additional expenses shall be paid to Legislators from the Legislative Account unless authorized by the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House of Representatives during any regular session.

In addition to the salary paid for the regular session of the Legislature, when an extra session is called, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives shall each be paid \$25 salary plus \$30 expenses for every day's attendance, and mileage as aforesaid.

~~The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives at such extra session shall receive, in addition, \$5 for every day's attendance~~

The member of the Penobscot Indian Tribe and the member of the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe elected to represent his tribe at the biennial assembly of the Legislature shall receive a compensation of \$2,000 for such attendance and travel at each legislative session for 30 trips to and from his place of abode at the same rate as state employees receive, and allowance for meals

and housing expenses as any other member of the Senate and House of Representatives for 30 days' attendance at each legislative session. The President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House shall, at all times, whether the Legislature be in session or not, have the authority to approve accounts and vouchers for payment shall receive \$2,000 salary for the first regular session and \$1,000 expenses plus mileage as aforesaid. At the 2nd regular session he shall receive \$1,000 salary and \$500 expenses plus mileage as aforesaid. Special session compensation shall be the same as for other Legislators.

The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the floor leaders and their assistants and members of a committee, with the approval of the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House as to members of a committee, may also meet on days when the Legislature is not in daily session at any convenient location within the State and shall receive \$40 per day salary and be reimbursed for their actual expenses, with the exception of mileage which shall be paid at the same rate received by state employees.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Legislative Account the sum of \$264,300 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows :

	1976-77
LEGISLATURE	
All Other	\$264,300

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The Legislature will meet in annual sessions effective January 5, 1977. This bill will provide a salary structure and expense account structure in compliance with these annual sessions. By the provision of a set expense allowance it will relieve the work load of the Legislative Finance Office by eliminating the necessity of filing individual expense sheets each week and will provide for more orderly payment of expenses to members of the Legislature.