

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

Legislative Document

No. 847

---

---

H. P. 725

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

On motion of Mr. Curran of South Portland, referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

---

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

---

**AN ACT to Establish the Salary of State Legislators.**

---

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

3 MRSA § 2, 1st ¶, 1st sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 750, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives beginning with the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday of January, 1979, and thereafter, shall receive a salary for each biennium, the sum of which is equal to the average annual wage of a resident of this state employed in the private sector. This average annual wage shall be determined by the Department of Labor based on statistics for the year prior to the biennium for which the member is to be paid. The division of this salary between the first and second regular sessions shall be determined by majority vote of both chambers of the Legislature during the first week of the first regular session. Each member 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 the performance of duly authorized committee assignments.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish the salary of State Legislators. The Maine Legislature has one of the lowest pay levels of any legislature in the

country. Attempts to raise legislative salaries are frequently met with strong opposition despite overwhelming evidence that low salaries discourage many people from running for public office. This legislation ties legislative salaries directly to the average salary of a Maine worker in the private sector. Thus, Legislators' salaries rise only when there is a similar increase in the wages of the citizens who pay our taxes. The estimated cost of this legislation for the biennium, 1977-78, is approximately \$92,000.