

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 860

H. P. 675

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and 2,000 ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Davies of Orono.

Cosponsors: Messrs. Pearson of Old Town, Quinn of Gorham, Devoe of Orono.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Provide Cost of Living Pay Increases to Classified, Faculty and Professional University of Maine Employees.**

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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, 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 classified, faculty and professional 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 increases for classified, faculty and professional employees of the University of Maine.** Beginning with the first pay period of July, 1977,

the following pay increases shall be granted to classified, faculty and professional employees of the University of Maine:

**A. Classified employees.** Twenty-six dollars per week shall be added to the weekly dollar amount of each step of the appropriate pay range of the current salary plan for classified employees of the University of Maine.

New hourly rates shall be computed to reflect these increases, based on a 40-hour week. Weekly hourly amounts shall be rounded to the nearest 10¢.

**B. Faculty and professional employees.** The annual salary of each faculty employee and each professional employee of the University of Maine on the effective date of this Act shall be increased by 15%.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the University of Maine the sum of \$6,369,522 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1978 and the sum of \$6,369,522 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1979 to fund the salary increases and additional employee benefit increases authorized under this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

|  | 1977-78            | 1978-79            |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  |                    |                    |
| Salary increases for classified employees                                    | \$1,581,294        | \$1,581,294        |
| Salary increases for faculty employees and professional employees            | 3,954,052          | 3,954,052          |
| Additional employee benefits necessitated by salary increases under this Act | 834,176            | 834,176            |
| Total  | <u>\$6,369,522</u> | <u>\$6,369,522</u> |

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The University of Maine has suffered greatly due to the major cutbacks made to its budget in recent years. Since much of the university budget goes for compensation to employees, the cutbacks have resulted in university employees remaining virtually static in terms of salary. This legislation will restore the purchasing power of university employees and place them on par with state employees.