

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 861**

H. P. 676

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 Mrs. Kane of Augusta.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Adjusting the Salary Plan for State Employees to Provide for a  
Salary Increase.**

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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 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, the current State Salary Plan was based upon labor market surveys made in or about August, 1975; and

Whereas, the authors of the State Salary Plan recommended that it be reviewed and adjusted annually, on the basis of appropriate market surveys, to ensure that employee salaries remain at levels consistent with competitive salaries which continue to keep pace with the increased cost-of-living; and

Whereas, by the time this legislation takes effect, almost 2 years will have passed since the State Salary Plan was developed causing a time lag which seriously threatens the plan's integrity; 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. Salary increases.** An amount of \$16 or 10%, whichever is greater,

shall be added to the weekly dollar amount of each step of the current State Salary Plan up to 10% of range 30, step A. All other steps shall be increased 10% of range 30, step A, and new hourly rates shall be computed to reflect these increases, based upon a 40-hour week. Weekly amounts shall be rounded to the nearest 10 cents.

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

**Sec. 3. Unclassified employees not subject to the Governor's determination.** With respect to unclassified employees whose wage rates are not subject to determination by the Governor, 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 department from their own sources.

**Sec. 5. Effective date.** This adjustment to the State Salary Plan shall be effective with the first pay period in July, 1977.

**Sec. 6. Appropriations.** There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$3,879,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1978 and the sum of \$3,879,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1979 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
SALARY PLAN FUND		
State Employees Fund	\$3,879,000	\$3,879,000

Any balance remaining in this fund shall carry forward until June 30, 1979 to be used for the same purposes.

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

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the emergency preamble.