

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2076**

S. P. 672

In Senate, January 13, 1978

Referred to the Committee on State Government and Ordered Printed. Sent down for concurrence.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Collins of Aroostook.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-EIGHT

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**AN ACT to Facilitate Recruitment and Retention of Outstanding Persons for  
Policy-making Positions in State Service.**

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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 salaries of certain officers in the executive branch are inadequate to attract and retain qualified individuals and this inability seriously hampers the effectiveness of State Government and causes the people of the State to suffer needless hardship; 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**Sec. 1. 2 MRSA § 6, sub-§ 1, 1st sentence**, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1973 c. 788, § 2, is amended to read:

The salaries of the following state officials and employees to no more than ~~\$25,500~~ \$28,113.

Sec. 2. 2 MRSA § 6, sub-§ 1, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 766, § 1, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**Chairman, Public Utilities Commission.**

Sec. 3. 2 MRSA § 6, sub-§ 1-A, is enacted to read:

1-A. The salaries of the following state officials and employees to no more than \$25,000:

Sec. 4. 2 MRSA § 6, sub-§ 3, 3rd ¶, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 509, § 2, is repealed as follows:

~~State Budget Officer-~~

Sec. 5. 2 MRSA § 6, sub-§ 3, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 770, § 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**Public Utilities Commission members, other than Chairman.**

Sec. 6. 2 MRSA § 7, sub-§ 1 last 2 lines as enacted by P&SL 1975, c. 147, Pt. C, § 4, are amended to read:

State Auditor .....	<del>17,500</del> 20,000;
Treasurer of State .....	<del>15,000</del> 17,500;

Sec. 7. 2 MRSA § 7, sub-§ 2, last 3 lines, as enacted by P&SL, 1975, c. 147, Pt. C, § 4, are repealed as follows:

~~Public Utilities Commission~~

~~Chairman.....~~ 22,050;

~~Members other than Chairman.....~~ 18,900;

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill seeks to solve a major personnel problem in State Government: The salary that may be offered to many top state officials is very often too low to attract and retain a high caliber of individual. This is not to say that the State does not attract very capable individuals, quite obviously, it does, but salary is a serious issue for these individuals. There are numerous recent cases of highly qualified individuals not accepting offers of state employment or seriously considering leaving state employment. As a further indication of the generally low salary

level of members of the Governor's cabinet, several of them have subordinates who are paid a higher salary.

The bill raises the salary that may be paid to state officials, as follows:

	<b>Salary</b>	
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Under this bill</b>
	Salary may not exceed	
Commissioner of Transportation	\$25,500	\$28,113
Commissioner of Conservation	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Finance & Administration	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Education & Cultural Services	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Environmental Protection	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Human Services	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Mental Health & Corrections	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Public Safety	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Business Regulation	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Manpower Affairs	25,500	28,113
Commissioner of Personnel	25,500	28,113
Chairman, Public Utilities Commission	22,050	28,113
	(exactly)	
State Budget Officer	22,500	25,500
Members, Public Utilities Commission	18,900	22,500
	(exactly)	
	Salary shall be exactly	
State Auditor	17,500	20,000
Treasurer of State	15,000	17,500

This bill establishes in the Public Laws permission for the appointing authority (normally the Governor) to pay up to the higher base salaries listed above. In addition, higher salary levels may still be established in appropriation acts. This was done, for example, in Private and Special Laws of 1975, chapter 147, part D, section 7, which established a new, higher pay range for all state officials whose salaries are limited by Title 2, section 6. This bill will automatically increase the salaries of some of the officials listed in Title 2, section 6.