

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 135**

H. P. 125

House of Representatives, January 23, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Drinkwater of Belfast.

Cosponsors: Mr. Tozier of Unity, Mrs. Hutchings of Lincolnville and Mr. Lowe of Winterport.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT to Increase Fees and Mileage Reimbursements of Witnesses.**

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

**16 MRSA § 251, first sentence**, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 731, § 16, is further amended to read:

Witnesses, other than members of the State Police or municipal police officers, in the Supreme Judicial Court, the Superior Court, the District Court or in the probate court, unless the court shall otherwise order, shall receive ~~\$10~~ **\$30**, and before referees, auditors or commissioners specially appointed to take testimony or special commissioners on disputed claims appointed by probate courts, ~~\$10~~ **\$30**, or before the county commissioners, ~~\$10~~ **\$30** for each day's attendance and ~~10¢~~ **15¢** a mile for each mile's travel going and returning home.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill increases witness fees for witnesses in the Supreme Judicial, Superior and District Courts to \$30, for witnesses before referees, auditors and certain commissioners to \$30, and for witnesses before county commissioners to \$30. It also increases travel reimbursement for these witnesses to 15¢ a mile.

It is increasingly difficult to persuade witnesses to become involved in a case as present low witness fees mean a person serving as a witness is not properly compensated for his time away from work. This bill, by increasing witness fees and travel fees, will help alleviate this problem.