

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 142

H. P. 131

House of Representatives, January 23, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Birt of East Millinocket.

Cosponsors: Mr. Tierney of Lisbon, Mr. Gould of Old Town, Mr. MacEachern of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Increase the Salaries of Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor
by \$5,000**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the offices of Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State and the State Auditor are vital state offices which have important responsibilities and great policy-making influence; and

Whereas, the present salaries paid to the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor are insufficient to properly compensate them for the burdens of the offices they hold; and

Whereas, the purchasing power of these salaries is rapidly decreasing because of the present high rate of inflation; and

Whereas, it is necessary to immediately increase these salaries in order to continue to attract and hold competent and energetic persons to these positions; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts creast 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:

2 MRSA § 7, sub-§ 1, ¶¶ A, B, C and D, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 697, § 3, are amended to read:

A. Attorney General.....	\$25,500	\$30,500;
B. Secretary of State	20,000	25,000;
C. State Auditor	20,000	25,000;
D. Treasurer of State.....	18,000	23,000.

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

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill increases the salaries of the offices of Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State and the State Auditor by \$5,000 apiece for reasons set forth in the emergency preamble to the bill. The Executive Branch, recognizing the present corrosive rate of inflation, has consistently increased the salaries of its department heads in order to attract and keep good people in departmental positions. This bill evenhandedly applies that policy to the officers elected by the Legislature.