

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1300

H. P. 1047

House of Representatives, March 19, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Brodeur of Auburn.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Increase Legislators' Salaries to Eventually Equal the Minimum Wage.**

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

**Sec. 1. 3 MRSA § 2, first sentence**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 750, § 1, is amended to read:

Each Member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday of January, ~~1977~~ 1981 and thereafter, shall receive ~~\$4,500~~ in the first year and ~~\$2,500~~ in the 2nd year of each biennium **salaries as determined in this section**, and shall be paid for travel at each legislative session once each week at the same rate per mile to and from his place of abode as state employees receive, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for travel on the Maine Turnpike provided they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such tolls to be reimbursed where Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments.

**Sec. 2. 3 MRSA § 2**, as last amended by PL 1977, c. 696, § 16, is further amended by adding, after the first paragraph, the following new paragraphs:

The salary in the first year of the biennium shall be the lesser of either the Maine minimum hourly wage, as determined by Title 26, section 664, multiplied by 2040 or \$4,500, increased at the rate of 7% compounded annually for each year commencing after 1978; except that this salary shall be that computed by multiplying the minimum wage by 2040 for each year after that in which the minimum wage formula determines the lesser amount of the 2 formulas.

The salary in the 2nd year shall be the lesser of either the Maine minimum hourly wage, as determined by Title 26, section 664, multiplied by 2040 or \$2,500 increased at the rate of 7% compounded annually for each year commencing after 1978; except that this salary shall be that computed by multiplying the minimum wage by 2040 for each year after that in which the minimum wage formula determines the lesser amount of the 2 formulas.

Sec. 3. 3 MRSA § 2, last ¶, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 696, § 16, is amended to read:

If a member of the Legislature dies or otherwise vacates the office, the successor is entitled to a salary from the date of seating, computed as follows: ~~Ninety dollars per week~~ **The appropriate annual salary divided by 52 times the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy occurs in the first year and \$50 per week for the appropriate annual salary divided by 52 times the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy occurs in the 2nd year.**

Sec. 4. **Effective date.** This Act shall take effect January 1, 1981.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides that the salaries for Legislators for the first and 2nd years of a biennium shall each be increased by 7% compounded each year until each salary is equal to the minimum wage for 2040 hours per year, i. e., 52 weeks x 40 hours = 2040 hours. After these salaries are equal to such an annual minimum wage through operation of this formula, Legislators salaries will then for each year be equal to 2040 multiplied by the then current minimum wage.