

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 400**

H. P. 352

House of Representatives, January 22, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Gillis of Calais.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

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**AN ACT to Phase out County Payments for the Support of the Judiciary.**

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

**Sec. 1.** 4 MRSA § 118, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 383, § 4, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

**Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the total payments in each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 1983, shall be 75% of the amount otherwise due in this section, the total payment in each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 1985, shall be 50% of the amount otherwise fixed in this section and the total payment in each year of the biennium beginning July 1, 1987, shall be 25% of the amount otherwise fixed in this section.**

**Sec. 2.** 4 MRSA § 118, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 383, § 4, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

**This section is repealed on July 1, 1989.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will delete the county responsibility for payment of a subsidy to the judicial branch of State Government, a responsibility that should lie with the judicial branch. The transfer of financial responsibility will be completed July 1, 1989.

With the current high cost of government operations and the over increasing inflationary spiral that has no end in the foreseeable future, the added burden of funding a state responsibility should be accepted by the State, relieving the tax burden that has been placed on the local taxpayer for the past several years. The high costs of materials required for the county government operations has increased in recent years to the point where relief must be immediate, and the responsibility for funding placed on the proper level. The local taxpayer has no recourse to relief other than to accept what he considers his legal tax load, and to anticipate that the State will accept the costs of operations of the judicial branch of State Government.