

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 890

H. P. 753

House of Representatives, February 17, 1981

On Motion of Representative LaPlante of Sabattus referred to the Committee on Local and County Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Armstrong of Wilton.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Authorize County Commissioners to Charge Rent for Space Furnished to Other Governmental Entities in County Court Houses and Other County-owned Facilities.

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA § 115, first ¶, last sentence, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 735, § 4, is amended to read:

The county commissioners in each county shall continue to provide for the use of the Supreme Judicial and Superior Courts such quarters, facilities, furnishings and equipment in existing county buildings as were in use on January 1, 1976 ~~without charge~~.

Sec. 2. 30 MRSA § 65, sub-§ 3 is enacted to read:

3. Rent for county facilities. The county commissioner shall set the rent to be charged any state department, agency or official and any court or court officer, occupying space in a county-owned facility. The commissioners shall compute a reasonable rent based on the relation that the square footage occupied by the noncounty tenant bears to the square footage of the building as a whole, taking into consideration total maintenance and energy costs of the building.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to allow counties to demand and collect reasonable rent from any noncounty governmental entity, such as courts, based on a reasonable proportion figured on a square footage basis of actual costs to the county of maintaining the facility and providing required utility and custodial services. In no event will other governmental-entity tenants be required to pay more than a reasonable share of total operative costs in proportion to that part of the facility occupied by the tenant bears to the total floor area of the facility.