

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1128

H. P. 952

House of Representatives, March 5, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Tuttle of Sanford.

Cosponsors: Representative Davies of Orono, Representative Dexter of Kingfield and Senator Clark of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for an Increase in Legislators' Salaries.

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Sec. 1. 3 MRSA § 2, first sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 750, § 1, is amended to read: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~~ member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday ~~after the first Tuesday of January, 1977 of December, 1982~~ and thereafter, shall receive ~~\$4,500 in the first year and \$2,500 in the 2nd year of each biennium~~ shall receive an annual salary of \$7,000 to be paid under such terms and conditions as the Legislative Council may establish, 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-A is enacted to read:

§ 2-A. Legislative salary commission

1. **Commission established.** There is established the Legislative Salary Commission, to consist of 5 members appointed as follows: 2 members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and one member shall be appointed by a majority of the preceding 4 commissioners, and shall serve as chairman of the commission. The 5 members shall be residents of the State, appointed from the public. No one may be appointed who is a Legislator at the time of his appointment.

All members shall be appointed for a term to coincide with the legislative biennium. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments, for the balance of the unexpired term.

The members of the commission shall be paid a per diem, expenses and allowances at the same rate as Legislators.

2. **Duties of the commission.** Not later than January 15th of every even-numbered year, the commission may submit to the Legislature a report of the commission. The report shall contain: A description of the commission's activities; the recommendations of the commission; the reasons for the recommendations; drafts of any legislation required to implement its recommendations; and any other material that commission members may wish to submit.

Prior to reporting as required in this subsection, and subsequent to giving public notice, the commission shall hold a public hearing on the report. Subsequent to reporting, the commission shall meet, if requested, with the Governor, the Legislative Council and legislative committees to discuss the report.

The report shall contain recommendations for: All compensation of Legislators and representatives of Indian tribes, including, but not limited to, all payments for salaries; meals, housing, travel, mileage and all other expenses and allowances; additional services as President of the Senate, Speaker of the House and as a member of leadership; and constituent services. The report may contain other recommendations.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill increases the salary of Legislators to \$7,000 per year beginning with the 111th Legislature.

The bill also creates a Legislative Salary Commission and a procedure for the commission to recommend compensation for the Legislature. After reviewing the compensation structure, the commission would hold a public hearing and then make recommendations to the Legislature at the beginning of the 2nd year of the biennium.