

# 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)

(EMERGENCY)  
(Governor's Bill)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

---

---

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1528**

---

---

S. P. 556

In Senate, April 8, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Najarian of Cumberland.

---

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

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

---

**RESOLVE, Appropriating Funds for the Lump Sum Settlement in the Case of the Estate of Edward M. Robinson v. State of Maine.**

---

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

Whereas, the State has agreed to resolve the workers' compensation claim of the estate of Edward M. Robinson by a lump sum agreement; and

Whereas, Edward M. Robinson at the time of his death was employed in an independent executive branch agency which no longer exists; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create 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

**Estate of Edward M. Robinson; funds appropriated. Resolved:** That there is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of the lump sum agreement between the estate of Edward M. Robinson and the State of Maine.

The appropriated funds shall be paid to the estate of Edward M. Robinson only

upon the condition that the payment releases the State from any and all further liability to the estate and any and all beneficiaries, heirs and assigns of the estate arising out of, or in conjunction with, the May 17, 1977, heart attack and subsequent death of Edward M. Robinson.

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

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this resolve is to provide funding for a lump sum agreement between the estate of Edward M. Robinson and the State under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Edward M. Robinson died on December 16, 1977, as the result of injuries sustained on May 17, 1977. Edward M. Robinson was employed by the Maine Administrative Hearing Office as an Administrative Judge. At the time of Edward M. Robinson's heart attack and death, the Administrative Hearing Office was an independent executive branch agency comprised of 2 employees, Edward M. Robinson and a secretary. Its primary purpose was to hear administrative complaints brought by the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement, Department of Public Safety, regarding liquor licenses' violations. Shortly after Edward M. Robinson's death, July 1, 1978, the agency was made by statute a part of the Judicial Branch as the Administrative Court.

The Robinson case has been a very difficult and complex matter and has been in litigation, disputed by the State, since Edward M. Robinson's death. The state's exposure is several times the agreed lump sum amount.

The State has no source of funding, other than this resolve, to fund the settlement agreement in this case. Therefore, if the agreement is to be implemented, funding from the General Fund should come pursuant to legislative approval.