MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY) SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

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NO. 2551

H.P. 1866 House of Representatives, March 21, 1988
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.
EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative PARADIS of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin,

Representatives MARSANO of Belfast and HANLEY of Paris.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Make Supplemental Appropriations for Expenditures of the Judicial Department and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Operation of the Judicial Department for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1988, and June 30, 1989.

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

Whereas, the 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

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- Whereas, the Judicial Department has certain
- immediate needs, obligations and expenses; and
- 5 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these
- facts create an emergency within the meaning of the 7 Constitution of Maine and require the following
- 8 legislation as immediately necessary for 9 preservation of the public peace, health and safety; 10 now, therefore,
- 11 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
- 12 follows:
- 13 Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §6-B, as amended by PL 1983, c.
- 14 416, §1, is further amended to read:
- 15 §6-B. Per diem compensation for Active Retired Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court
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- 17
- Any Active Retired Justice of the Supreme Judicial 18 Court, who performs judicial service at the direction
- **19** and assignment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme
- 20 21
- Judicial Court, shall be compensated for those services at the rate of \$75 \$150 per day or \$45 \$90 per 1/2 day, provided that the total per diem 22 23 compensation and retirement pension received by an
- Active Retired Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court in any calendar year may not exceed the annual salary 24 25 of a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. 26

enacted by PL

- Sec. 2. 4 MRSA 17, sub-§3,
- 27 1975, c. 408, §5-A, is amended to read: 28

- Investigate complaints.
- 29 Investigate
- complaints with respect to the operation of the courts 30 31
- and relating to court and judicial security. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such complaints and investigative files are confidential.
- 32 33 34 Nothing in this section precludes dissemination of

such information to another criminal justice agency;

Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §17, sub-§15, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 137, §3, is amended to read:

3 4 5 premises to ensure the orderly conduct of judicial proceedings. This includes the authority to contract for the services of qualified deputy sheriffs and 7 8 other qualified individuals as needed on a per diem 9 basis to perform court security-related functions and 1.0 services. qualified in "Qualified deputy sheriffs and other 11 individuals" means those individuals 12 hold valid certification as law enforcement officers, 13 defined by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, pursuant to Title 25, chapter 341, to include successful completion of such additional training in 14 15 16 court security as provided by the academy 17 equivalent training. When under such contract and then only for the assignment specifically contracted for, the qualified deputy sheriffs or other qualified 18 19 20 individuals shall have the same duties and powers throughout the counties of the State as sheriffs have in their respective counties. The persons performing 21 22 23 such contractual services shall not be considered 24 employees of the State for any purpose. They shall be paid a reasonable per diem fee plus reimbursement of 25 26 their actual, necessary and reasonable expenses 27 the performance duties, incurred in of their 28 consistent with policies established by the State 29 Administrator. Notwithstanding any 30 provision of law, such plans, arrangements and files involving court security matters are confidential. Nothing in this section precludes dissemination of such information to another criminal justice agency. 31 32 33

34 Sec. 4. 4 MRSA § 104-A, as amended by PL 1983, 35 c. 416, §2, is further amended to read:

<u>\$104-A.</u> Per diem compensation for Active Retired Superior Court Justices

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39 40 41 Any Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court, who performs judicial service at the direction and assignment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Gudicial Superior Court, shall be compensated for

- those services at the rate of \$75 \$150 per day or \$45 \$90 per 1/2 day, provided that the total per diem compensation and retirement pension received by an Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court in any calendar year may not exceed the annual salary of a Justice of the Superior Court.
- 7 Sec. 5. 4 MRSA §157-D, as enacted by PL 1983, 8 c. 853, Pt. C, §§13, 18, is amended to read:

§157-D. Active retired judges; compensation

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Any Active Retired Judge of the District Court, who performs judicial service at the direction and assignment of the Chief Judge of the District Court, shall be compensated for those services at the rate of \$75 \$150 per day or \$45 \$90 per 1/2 day, provided that the total per diem compensation and retirement pension received by an Active Retired Judge of the District Court in any calendar year may not exceed the annual salary of a Judge of the District Court.

20 **Sec. 6. 4 MRSA 1151,** sub-§3, ¶H, as enacted by 21 PL 1987, c. 85, §1, is amended to read:

Any Administrative Court Judge who retires or terminates his service on the court in accordance with chapter 27, except for a disability retirement, is eligible for appointment Active Retired Judge of the Administrative Court as provided. The Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary and confirmation by the Legislature, may appoint any eligible judge to be an Active Retired Judge of the Administrative Court for a period of 7 years, removed. That judge may unless sooner judge reappointed for like a term. Any and designated appointed shall thereupon constitute a part of the court from which he has retired and shall have the same jurisdiction and subject to the same restrictions therein as before retirement, except that he shall act only in those cases and matters and hold court only at

	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	those sessions and times as he may be directed and assigned by the Administrative Court Judge or by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. An Active Retired Judge of the Administrative Court, who performs judicial service at the direction and assignment of the Administrative Court Judge or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, shall be compensated for those services at the rate of \$75 \$150 a day or \$45 \$90 for 1/2 day, provided that the total per day compensation and retirement pension received by an Active Retired Judge of the Administrative Court in any calendar year may not exceed the Administrative Court.
	16 17 18	Sec. 7. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.
	19	1988-89
	20	JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
	21 22	Courts- Supreme, Superior, District and Administrative
_)	23	Personal Services \$ 63,435
	24 25 26 27	Provides funds for increased per diem for Active Retired Judges and Justices.
	28	All Other \$61,000
	29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	Provides funds for increased per diem for mediators hired by contract for the Court Mediation Service pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 18,

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i, ,	subsection 2.	
2 3 4 5 6	Positions Personal Services All Other	(1) \$ 31,712 6,000
6	Total	\$ 37,712
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Provides authorization and funds to employ an additional Official Court Reporter to support the trial work of Active Retired Justices in the Superior Court.	
15 16 17 18 19	Positions Personal Services All Other Capital Expenditures	(3) \$ 93,920 9,000 255,000
20	Total	\$357,920
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Provides authorization to employ additional programmer analysts and funds to complete computerization of all 50 state court locations and establish communications linkage between courts and with the Division of	

Vehicles

State Bureau

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Identification files.

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TOTAL

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\$520,067

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

Sections 1, 4, 5 and 6 provide for an increase in 5 6 the statutory per diem for active retired judges and justices of the Maine court system. The current rate of \$75 per day and \$45 per 1/2 day of service was set 7 8 9 This is the equivalent of \$10 an hour. Official court reporters are paid from \$10.58 to \$15.67 per hour. Private court reporters are paid an 10 11. 12 equivalent of \$20 an hour. The court fee schedule 1.3 guideline for lawyers appearing on behalf of indigent 14 criminal defendants allows \$35 per hour for in-court 15 time.

Ten active retired judges and justices served 840 judge days in calendar year 1986, the equivalent of 3.5 judges. At current salaries plus benefits for active members of the judiciary, this judge time would have cost the State at least \$350,000. The actual cost to the State for their services was \$63,443 in per diem expenses.

23: Sections 2 and 3 clarify the confidential nature 24 court security-related complaints and resulting 25 investigations as well as court facility security 2.6 plans, trial-related security arrangements, 27 These provisions are similar to statutory authority 28 already in effect for other state, county municipal criminal justice agencies. They also permit employment of other qualified individuals, in addition 2:9: 3:0 31 to qualified deputy sheriffs.

Section 7 provides funds for the increased statutory per diem for active retired judges and justices. It also provides funding for an increase in the per diem of court mediators. The per diem of court mediators is set administratively. The Court Mediation Service successfully resolved over 1,400 cases in 1986 and substantially reduced the contested issues in many others, eliminating considerable in-court trial time and expense.

This section also provides authorization for an additional official court reporter needed to support the trial work of Active Retired Justices in the Superior Court. The Superior Court has found it necessary to postpone trials in which active retired justices were available to sit because no court reporter, official or private, was available to transcribe the proceedings.

9 Section 7 also provides authorization to hire 3 10 additional programmer analysts and provides additional 11 funds necessary to complete computerization of all 12 courts and established communications linkage between 13 the courts and state agencies.

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