

# 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)



# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 264

S.P. 144

In Senate, February 21, 1989

Submitted by the Department of Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator GILL of Cumberland, Representative WEBSTER of Cape Elizabeth and Representative KETOVER of Portland.

### STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Amend the Interpreter Service for the Hearing Impaired.



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

3             **5 MRSA §48, sub-§3, ¶C**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1979,  
c. 88, §4, is amended to read:

5  
7             C. An interpreter appointed under this section shall be  
reimbursed by the Bureau of Rehabilitation, upon  
9             certification by the appropriate agency or court of services  
performed, at a fixed rate reflecting the current fee  
11            schedule as established by the Bureau of Rehabilitation,  
plus travel expenses; provided that ~~the rate shall not~~  
13            ~~exceed \$15 an hour and that~~ employees of the State or any of  
its political subdivisions, public employees and public or  
15            private school, university and college teachers or  
administrators for interpreting services or anyone who  
17            receives salary during regular work hours shall not be  
reimbursed under this section for interpreter services  
19            performed during their regular working hours. Nothing in  
this section shall may be construed as preventing any agency  
21            or court from employing a qualified interpreter on a  
full-time basis or under contract at a mutually agreed upon  
23            compensation rate.

25  
27                             **STATEMENT OF FACT**

29            The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the maximum hourly  
rate for interpreter services for the deaf and hearing impaired  
31            as this maximum rate is restrictive and has not been updated in  
10 years. The national average hourly rate for a nationally  
33            certified interpreter is \$20 for legal interpreting. Most states  
do not specify a limit, but establish fees based on the skill  
and certification level of the interpreter.