

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1389

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H.P. 991

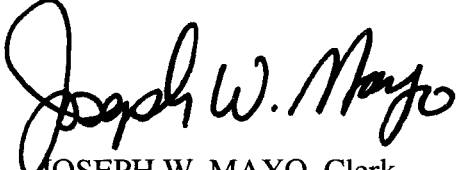
House of Representatives, February 18, 1999

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**An Act to Establish Fair Funding for Independent and 3rd-Party  
Legislators.**

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Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MENDROS of Lewiston.  
Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and  
Representatives: BUCK of Yarmouth, COLLINS of Wells, DUDLEY of Portland, FOSTER  
of Gray, GOODWIN of Pembroke, MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MACK of Standish,  
TRIPP of Topsham.

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

2  
4           **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §162, sub-§12-B** is enacted to read:

6           12-B. Independent and 3rd-party Budget Fund. To establish  
8           a fund, called the Independent and 3rd-party Budget Fund, to  
10           provide administrative support for Independent and 3rd-party  
Legislators in order for them to comprehensively and effectively  
execute the duties of their office.

12           A. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall  
14           administer the Independent and 3rd-party Budget Fund.

16           B. By July 1, 2000, the Legislature shall appropriate money  
18           to the Independent and 3rd-party Budget Fund to be  
20           distributed to Independent and 3rd-party members of the  
22           House of Representatives. The amount of the fund must be  
24           calculated by determining the total value of office space in  
26           the State House assigned by the Legislature for use by the  
28           Democratic members of the House of Representatives plus the  
30           total value of salary and benefits paid to the partisan  
32           Democratic employees of the House of Representatives. That  
34           amount must then be divided by the number of Democratic  
36           members of the House of Representatives serving in the  
38           Legislature during that session. The same formula must be  
40           applied to office space and employee salaries and benefits  
42           of partisan Republican legislative employees of the House of  
44           Representatives. Whichever figure is less is equal to the  
46           amount of the Independent and 3rd-party Budget Fund  
48           distributed to Independent and 3rd-party members of the  
House of Representatives.

34           C. By July 1, 2000, the Legislature shall appropriate money  
36           to the Independent and 3rd-party Budget Fund to be  
38           distributed to Independent and 3rd-party members of the  
40           Senate. The amount of the fund must be calculated by  
42           determining the total value of office space in the State  
44           House assigned by the Legislature for use by the Democratic  
46           members of the Senate plus the total value of salary and  
48           benefits paid to the partisan Democratic employees of the  
Senate. That amount must then be divided by the number of  
Democratic members of the Senate serving in the Legislature  
during that session. The same formula must be applied to  
office space and employee salaries and benefits of partisan  
Republican legislative employees of the Senate. Whichever  
figure is less is equal to the amount of the Independent and  
3rd-party Budget Fund distributed to Independent and  
3rd-party members of the Senate.

2       D. The Independent and 3rd-party Budget Fund must be used  
3       to assist Independent and 3rd-party Legislators by providing  
4       funds for office supplies, office equipment or other  
5       expenses necessary for maintaining an office;

6

### SUMMARY

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10       This bill establishes a budget fund for Independent and  
11       3rd-party Legislators to assist them by providing funds for  
12       office space, supplies or equipment. The fund is to be  
administered by the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.