

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 210

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H.P. 169

House of Representatives, January 21, 2003

### An Act to Reduce Legislative Salaries and Allowances

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Skowhegan.  
Cosponsored by Representative: SYKES of Harrison.

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

2

**Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 509, §1,  
4 is further amended to read:

6

Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives,  
beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2000 2004 and  
8 thereafter, is entitled to ~~\$10,815~~ \$10,245 in the first year and  
~~\$7,725~~ \$7,472 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a  
10 Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the  
federal Social Security Administration files a written request  
12 with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one  
week after the biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to  
14 ~~\$9,270~~ \$8,858.50 in each year of the biennium. ~~Each member of  
the Senate and the House of Representatives must receive a  
cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary, except  
that the percentage increase may not exceed 5% in any year.  
18 Beginning December 1, 2001, the salary for each legislative  
session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage  
20 change in the Consumer Price Index for the most recently  
concluded fiscal year.~~ In addition, each Legislator is entitled  
22 to be paid for travel at each legislative session once each week  
at the ~~same~~ rate of 28.8 cents per mile to and from that  
24 Legislator's place of abode ~~as state employees receive~~, the  
mileage to be determined by the most reasonable direct route,  
26 except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for  
travel on the Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for  
28 payment of the tolls, such tolls to be reimbursed when  
Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from  
30 sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized  
committee assignments. Each Legislator is entitled to mileage on  
32 the first day of the session, and those amounts of salary and  
expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during  
34 the session, and the balance at the end of the session.

36 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §2, 3rd ¶**, as corrected by RR 2001, c. 2, Pt.  
A, §1, is amended to read:

38

Except as provided in this section, each member of the  
40 Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to a meal  
allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$28.80 and a housing allowance in  
42 the amount of \$38 for each day in attendance at sessions of the  
Legislature and for each day the member occupies overnight  
44 accommodations away from home either immediately preceding or  
immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the  
46 Legislature. The presiding officers may establish reasonable  
policies regarding allowances for meals and overnight  
48 accommodations for the day immediately preceding the session,  
which may include policies regarding whether an allowance is  
50 paid, whether the full amount or a portion of the statutory  
allowance is paid and whether receipts are required. In lieu of

2 the meal and housing allowance, each member is entitled to a  
3 daily meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$28.80 and actual daily  
4 mileage allowances in an amount up to but not exceeding \$38 per  
5 day. Each member of the Senate also receives an annual allowance  
6 for constituent services in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,300 in  
7 January and \$700 in the month following adjournment of the  
8 regular session. Each member of the House of Representatives  
9 also receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the  
10 amount of \$1,500, \$1,005 in January and \$495 in the month  
11 following adjournment of the regular session. Notwithstanding  
12 this section, during the first regular session of each  
13 legislative biennium, a member of the Senate or the House of  
14 Representatives may elect to receive the first payment of the  
15 annual allowance for constituent services in December following  
16 convening of the Legislature by notifying the Executive Director  
17 of the Legislative Council in the manner prescribed by the  
18 executive director. The Executive Director of the Legislative  
19 Council shall inform Legislators of the choice available for  
20 payment of the allowance for constituent services in the first  
21 year of the legislative biennium and of any tax implications  
22 associated with exercising that choice.

23 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §2, 10th ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt.  
24 O, §5; c. 600, Pt. B, §§9 and 10; and c. 878, Pt. D, §§14 and 15,  
25 is further amended to read:

26  
27 The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
28 Representatives, the floor leaders and their assistants and  
29 members of a committee, with the approval of the President of the  
30 Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to  
31 members of a committee, may also meet on days when the  
32 Legislature is not in daily session at any convenient location  
33 within the State. Each member of the Senate and House of  
34 Representatives ~~shall receive~~ is entitled to \$55 for every day's  
35 attendance when meetings or daily sessions are held, a meal  
36 allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$28.80 and a housing allowance  
37 whereby actual lodging expenses will be reimbursed at the  
38 single-room rate, ~~provided that~~ as long as a receipt is submitted  
39 to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council for each day  
40 in attendance at such meetings or daily sessions and for each day  
41 that member occupies overnight accommodations away from home  
42 either immediately preceding or immediately following attendance  
43 at daily sessions of the Legislature and actual daily mileage  
44 allowances ~~which shall~~ that must be paid at the ~~same~~ rate paid  
45 ~~to state employees of 28.8 cents per mile~~. In lieu of the meal  
46 and housing allowance, each member ~~shall be~~ is entitled to a  
47 daily meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$28.80 and actual daily  
48 mileage allowances.

49 **Sec. 4. Effective date.** This Act takes effect December 1, 2004.

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## SUMMARY

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6       This bill reduces the salaries and mileage and meal  
allowances for Legislators by 10%, beginning with the 122nd  
Legislature. Currently, salaries for Legislators are adjusted  
8 annually for inflation. This bill eliminates that adjustment.