

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 473

S.P. 176

In Senate, February 10, 2009

**An Act To Suspend the Cost-of-living Adjustment for Legislators'
Salaries for the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator RAYE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Waterford and
Senators: COURTNEY of York, ROSEN of Hancock, Representatives: CLEARY of Houlton,
CONNOR of Kennebunk, SAVIELLO of Wilton.

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

3 Whereas, current law provides for an annual cost-of-living adjustment for
4 Legislator salaries; and

5 Whereas, this measure suspends that cost-of-living adjustment for the current
6 session of the 124th Legislature; and

7 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
8 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
9 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
10 therefore,

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

12 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, first ¶,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. F, §1, is further
13 amended to read:

14 Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first
15 Wednesday of December 2000 and thereafter, is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and
16 \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of
17 retirement benefits from the federal Social Security Administration files a written request
18 with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one week after the
19 biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$9,270 in each year of the biennium.
20 Each member of the Senate and the House of Representatives must receive a cost-of-
21 living adjustment in annual legislative salary, except that the percentage increase may not
22 exceed 5% in any year. Beginning December 1, 2001, the salary for each legislative
23 session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the Consumer
24 Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year; except that no member of the
25 Senate or the House of Representatives may receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual
26 legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature or, the First
27 Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature or the First Regular Session of the 124th
28 Legislature. In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid for travel at each legislative
29 session once each week at the same rate per mile to and from that Legislator's place of
30 abode as state employees receive, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable
31 direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for travel on the
32 Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such tolls to be
33 reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from sessions of
34 the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments. Each
35 Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and those amounts of
36 salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session,
37 and the balance at the end of the session.

38 **Sec. 2. Retroactivity.** This Act applies retroactively to December 3, 2008.

39 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
40 legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This bill suspends the cost-of-living adjustment for salaries of Legislators for the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.