

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 487

S.P. 183

In Senate, February 10, 2009

### **An Act To Increase Judicial Salaries**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reported by Senator BLISS of Cumberland for the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 1701, subsection 13.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed under Joint Rule 218.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

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 salaries for members of Maine's judiciary are among the lowest in  
4 the nation; and

5           **Whereas,** the annual cost-of-living increases for judicial salaries required by law  
6 have not been implemented on a regular basis, thereby causing judicial salaries to lag  
7 behind intended salary levels recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission in  
8 previous reports to the Legislature dating back to 1996; and

9           **Whereas,** it is the recommendation of the Judicial Compensation Commission that  
10 increases in judicial salaries become effective July 1, 2009; and

11           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
12 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
13 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
14 therefore,

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

16           **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §4, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §1, is further  
17 amended to read:

18           **1. Chief justice; salary.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court is entitled  
19 to receive a salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2009-10 and thereafter, of ~~\$111,000~~ \$151,074,  
20 to be paid biweekly.

21           **Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §4, sub-§2, ¶A,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt.  
22 M, §2, is amended to read:

23           A. For fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2009-10 and thereafter, ~~\$96,000~~ \$130,659, to be paid  
24 biweekly.

25           **Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §102, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §4, is  
26 further amended to read:

27           **1. Chief justice; salary.** The Chief Justice of the Superior Court is entitled to  
28 receive a salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2009-10 and thereafter, of ~~\$94,000~~ \$127,937, to  
29 be paid biweekly.

30           **Sec. 4. 4 MRSA §102, sub-§2, ¶A,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 643,  
31 Pt. M, §5, is amended to read:

32           A. For fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2009-10 and thereafter, ~~\$90,000~~ \$122,493, to be paid  
33 biweekly.

34           **Sec. 5. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §7, is  
35 further amended to read:

1           **2. Chief Judge; salary.** The Chief Judge of the District Court is entitled to receive a  
2 salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2009-10 and thereafter, of ~~\$94,000~~ \$127,937, to be paid  
3 biweekly.

4           **Sec. 6. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §8, is  
5 further amended to read:

6           **3. Deputy Chief Judge; salary.** The Deputy Chief Judge of the District Court is  
7 entitled to receive a salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2009-10 and thereafter, of ~~\$92,000~~  
8 \$125,215, to be paid biweekly.

9           **Sec. 7. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§4, ¶A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 643,  
10 Pt. M, §9, is amended to read:

11           A. For fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2009-10 and thereafter, ~~\$90,000~~ \$122,493, to be paid  
12 biweekly.

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

15   **SUMMARY**

16           This bill, submitted by the Judicial Compensation Commission as part of its  
17 December 2008 report to the Legislature, increases judicial salaries to levels that would  
18 have been achieved if the recommendations made in the commission's 1996 report had  
19 been fully implemented.