

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

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Legislative Document

No. 973

H.P. 717

House of Representatives, March 8, 2011

### An Act To Shorten the Legislative Sessions

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative LIBBY of Waterboro.  
Cosponsored by Senator THOMAS of Somerset, Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook and  
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, DUNPHY of Embden, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HARVELL  
of Farmington, O'CONNOR of Berwick, SIROCKI of Scarborough, TIMBERLAKE of  
Turner, WILLETTE of Mapleton.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. LL, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first  
5 Wednesday of December 2000 and thereafter, is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and  
6 \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of  
7 retirement benefits from the federal Social Security Administration files a written request  
8 with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one week after the  
9 biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$9,270 in each year of the biennium.  
10 Each member of the Senate and the House of Representatives must receive a cost-of-  
11 living adjustment in annual legislative salary, except that the percentage increase may not  
12 exceed 5% in any year. Beginning December 1, 2001, the salary for each legislative  
13 session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the Consumer  
14 Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year; except that no member of the  
15 Senate or the House of Representatives may receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual  
16 legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature. In the 126th  
17 Legislature, the salary for each legislative session must be 30% less than the salary paid  
18 for each legislative session in the 125th Legislature. Beginning December 1, 2014, this  
19 reduced salary for each legislative session is subject to the cost-of-living adjustment  
20 described in this paragraph. In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid for travel at  
21 each legislative session once each week at the same rate per mile to and from that  
22 Legislator's place of abode as state employees receive, the mileage to be determined by  
23 the most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid  
24 for travel on the Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls,  
25 such tolls to be reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and  
26 from sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee  
27 assignments. Each Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and  
28 those amounts of salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine  
29 during the session, and the balance at the end of the session.

30 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §2, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 166, is further amended to  
31 read:

32 The first regular session of the Legislature, after its convening, shall adjourn no later  
33 than the 3rd Wednesday in June, except that beginning with the 126th Legislature, the  
34 first regular session shall adjourn no later than April 15th, and the 2nd regular session of  
35 the Legislature shall adjourn no later than the 3rd Wednesday in April, except that  
36 beginning with the 126th Legislature, the 2nd regular session shall adjourn no later than  
37 March 15th. The Legislature, in case of emergency, may by a vote of 2/3 of the members  
38 of each House present and voting, extend the date for adjournment for the first or 2nd  
39 regular session by no more than 5 legislative days, and in case of further emergency, may  
40 by a vote of 2/3 of the members of each House present and voting, further extend the date  
41 for adjournment by 5 additional legislative days. The times for adjournment for the first  
42 and 2nd regular sessions may also be extended for one additional legislative day for the  
43 purpose of considering possible objections of the Governor to any bill or resolution  
44 presented to ~~him~~ the Governor by the Legislature under the Constitution, Article IV, Part

1 Third, Section 2. A special session of the Legislature shall adjourn no later than 5  
2 legislative days after its convening.

3

### **SUMMARY**

4 This bill shortens legislative sessions beginning with the 126th Legislature by setting  
5 a statutory adjournment date of April 15th for the first regular session and March 15th for  
6 the second regular session. It also correspondingly reduces the salary paid to legislators  
7 by 30% beginning with the 126th Legislature. It requires a special session of the  
8 Legislature to adjourn no later than 5 legislative days after its convening.