

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 398

H.P. 273

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

**An Act To Eliminate the Constituent Services Allowance for
Legislators**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHENETTE of Saco.

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

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

4 Except as provided in this section, each member of the Senate and House of
5 Representatives is entitled to a meal allowance in the amount of \$32 and a housing
6 allowance in the amount of \$38 for each day in attendance at sessions of the Legislature
7 and for each day the member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either
8 immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the
9 Legislature. The presiding officers may establish reasonable policies regarding
10 allowances for meals and overnight accommodations for the day immediately preceding
11 the session, which may include policies regarding whether an allowance is paid, whether
12 the full amount or a portion of the statutory allowance is paid and whether receipts are
13 required. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member is entitled to a daily
14 meal allowance in the amount of \$32 and actual daily mileage allowances in an amount
15 up to but not exceeding \$38 per day. ~~Each member of the Senate also receives an annual
16 allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,300 in January and \$700 in
17 the month following adjournment of the regular session. Each member of the House of
18 Representatives also receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount
19 of \$1,500, \$1,005 in January and \$495 in the month following adjournment of the regular
20 session. Notwithstanding this section, during the first regular session of each legislative
21 biennium, a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may elect to receive
22 the first payment of the annual allowance for constituent services in December following
23 convening of the Legislature by notifying the Executive Director of the Legislative
24 Council in the manner prescribed by the executive director. The Executive Director of
25 the Legislative Council shall inform Legislators of the choice available for payment of
26 the allowance for constituent services in the first year of the legislative biennium and of
27 any tax implications associated with exercising that choice.~~

28 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §2, 8th ¶**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 636, Pt. A, §2, is further
29 amended to read:

30 The member of the Penobscot Indian Nation, the member of the Passamaquoddy
31 Indian Tribe and, beginning with the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature,
32 the member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians elected to represent their tribes at
33 the Legislature are entitled to receive a salary equal to the salary of members of the
34 Senate and the House of Representatives, including a cost-of-living adjustment, for each
35 regular session and allowance for meals, ~~constituent service~~, housing and travel expenses
36 to the same extent as members of the House of Representatives for attendance at each
37 legislative session or authorized committee meeting. For the duration of any special
38 session of the Legislature, they are entitled to receive the same per diem payment and
39 allowances, including housing, meal and travel expenses, as any member of the Senate
40 and House of Representatives.

41 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §2-B, sub-§2, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 506, §1, is
42 amended to read:

1 B. The recommendations of the commission for all regular and special sessions of
2 the next Legislature concerning:

3 (1) Compensation of Legislators and representatives of Indian tribes, including,
4 but not limited to, all payments for: salaries, meals, housing, travel, mileage and
5 all other expenses and allowances; and additional service as President of the
6 Senate, as Speaker of the House or as a member of leadership; ~~and for constituent~~
7 ~~services;~~ and

8 (2) Compensation for the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer
9 of State and the State Auditor;

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This bill eliminates the constituent services allowance for Legislators.