

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

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Legislative Document

No. 1811

S.P. 725

In Senate, March 11, 2014

**An Act To Appropriate and Allocate Funds To Strengthen the  
State's Efforts To Investigate, Prosecute and Punish Persons  
Committing Drug Crimes**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PLUMMER of Cumberland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. III, §2, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 A. The Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the  
5 Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and to confirmation by the  
6 Legislature, shall appoint to the District Court ~~36~~ 40 judges. At least one judge must  
7 be appointed from each district who is a resident of a county in which the district lies,  
8 except that in District 3 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a  
9 county in which the district lies; in District 6 there must be 2 judges appointed who  
10 are residents of a county in which the district lies; and in District 9 there must be 2  
11 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the district lies. Four judges  
12 must be appointed to the District Court to hear drug-related criminal cases  
13 exclusively; of those judges, one sits in Presque Isle in District 2, one sits in Bangor  
14 in District 3, one sits in Lewiston in District 8 and one sits in Portland in District 9.  
15 Each District Court Judge has a term of office of 7 years.

16 To be eligible for appointment as a District Judge, a person must be a member of the  
17 bar of the State. The term "District Judge" includes the Chief Judge and Deputy  
18 Chief Judge.

19 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
20 allocations are made.

21 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**  
22 **Drug Enforcement Agency 0388**

23 Initiative: Provides funding for 14 Investigative Agent positions from the General Fund  
24 and funding for training and costs associated with conducting investigations from Other  
25 Special Revenue Funds.

26			
27	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
28	All Other	\$0	\$1,465,090
29			
30	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,465,090</u>

31			
32	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
33	All Other	\$0	\$227,033
34			
35	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$227,033</u>

36 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
37 allocations are made.

38 **ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE**

1           **Administration - Attorney General 0310**

2           Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for 4 Assistant Attorney General positions that will  
3           be dedicated to prosecuting drug crimes.

4

5 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
6           Personal Services	\$0	\$327,180
7           All other	\$0	\$19,764
8		
9           GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$346,944</u>

10

**SUMMARY**

11           This bill creates 4 new District Court Judge positions within the Judicial Department.  
12           These judges must hear and decide drug-related criminal cases and sit in the cities of  
13           Presque Isle, Bangor, Lewiston and Portland.

14           This bill provides funding for 14 Investigative Agent positions in the Department of  
15           Public Safety, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and funding for training and costs  
16           associated with conducting investigations.

17           This bill also provides funding for 4 Assistant Attorney General positions in the  
18           Department of the Attorney General that will be dedicated to prosecuting drug crimes.