

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1379

H.P. 1000

House of Representatives, March 26, 2019

**An Act To Increase the Annual Salary of the Governor and To
Increase the Expense Allowance Paid to Legislators**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §1**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 361, Pt. B, §1, is further amended
3 to read:

4 **§1. Residence; office hours; secretary; salary**

5 The ~~Governor shall have his~~ Governor's official residence ~~at is located in~~ Augusta
6 during ~~his~~ the Governor's term of office, and ~~the Governor~~ shall keep ~~his~~ the Governor's
7 office at the State House open for the transaction of the business of the State during all
8 normal working hours of the State House.

9 In the absence of the Governor, ~~his~~ the Governor's private secretary shall be in
10 attendance and the private secretary shall devote ~~his~~ the entire time to the duties of ~~his~~ the
11 private secretary's office.

12 Until the first Wednesday of January 1987, the Governor ~~shall receive~~ receives an
13 annual salary of \$35,000. Beginning the first Wednesday of January 1987, the Governor
14 ~~shall receive~~ receives an annual salary of \$70,000. Beginning the first Wednesday of
15 January 2023, the Governor receives an annual salary of \$150,000.

16 A former Governor may accept as a personal gift from the State at the end of ~~his~~ that
17 Governor's final term the desk and chair used by that Governor as Governor.

18 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §2, 4th ¶**, as corrected by RR 2001, c. 2, Pt. A, §1, is amended to
19 read:

20 Except as provided in this section, each member of the Senate and House of
21 Representatives is entitled to a meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$50 and a housing
22 allowance in the amount of ~~\$38~~ \$75 for each day in attendance at sessions of the
23 Legislature and for each day the member occupies overnight accommodations away from
24 home either immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions
25 of the Legislature. The presiding officers may establish reasonable policies regarding
26 allowances for meals and overnight accommodations for the day immediately preceding
27 the session, which may include policies regarding whether an allowance is paid, whether
28 the full amount or a portion of the statutory allowance is paid and whether receipts are
29 required. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member is entitled to a daily
30 meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$50 and actual daily mileage allowances in an
31 amount up to but not exceeding ~~\$38~~ \$75 per day. Each member of the Senate also
32 receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,300 in
33 January and \$700 in the month following adjournment of the regular session. Each
34 member of the House of Representatives also receives an annual allowance for
35 constituent services in the amount of \$1,500, \$1,005 in January and \$495 in the month
36 following adjournment of the regular session. Notwithstanding this section, during the
37 first regular session of each legislative biennium, a member of the Senate or the House of
38 Representatives may elect to receive the first payment of the annual allowance for
39 constituent services in December following convening of the Legislature by notifying the
40 Executive Director of the Legislative Council in the manner prescribed by the executive
41 director. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall inform Legislators of

1 the choice available for payment of the allowance for constituent services in the first year
2 of the legislative biennium and of any tax implications associated with exercising that
3 choice.

4 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §2, 11th ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §5; c. 600, Pt.
5 B, §§9 and 10; and c. 878, Pt. D, §§14 and 15, is further amended to read:

6 The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the floor
7 leaders and their assistants and members of a committee, with the approval of the
8 President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to members of a
9 committee, may also meet on days when the Legislature is not in daily session at any
10 convenient location within the State. Each member of the Senate and House of
11 Representatives ~~shall receive~~ receives \$55 for every day's attendance when meetings or
12 daily sessions are held, a meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$50 and a housing
13 allowance whereby actual lodging expenses will be reimbursed at the single-room rate,
14 ~~provided that~~ as long as a receipt is submitted to the Executive Director of the Legislative
15 Council for each day in attendance at such meetings or daily sessions and for each day
16 that member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either immediately
17 preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature and
18 actual daily mileage allowances ~~which shall~~ that must be paid at the same rate paid to
19 state employees. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member ~~shall be~~ is
20 entitled to a daily meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$50 and actual daily mileage
21 allowances.

22 **Sec. 4. Effective date.** Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised
23 Statutes, Title 3, section 2 take effect December 2, 2020.

24 SUMMARY

25 This bill increases the Governor's salary from \$70,000 per year to \$150,000 per year
26 beginning January 2023. The bill also increases the legislative meal and housing
27 allowances from \$32 and \$38 to \$50 and \$75, respectively. It also increases the mileage
28 allowance from \$38 to \$75. The increases in the expense allowances for Legislators take
29 effect December 2, 2020.