

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1667

H.P. 1193

House of Representatives, April 30, 2019

**An Act To Increase Salaries for Elected State Officials and To
Amend the Laws Governing the State Compensation Commission**

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 BABBIDGE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: HYMANSON of York, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, MOONEN of Portland,
O'NEIL of Saco, RECKITT of South Portland, STANLEY of Medway, TUCKER of
Brunswick.

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~~ is entitled to
13 receive an annual salary of \$35,000. Beginning the first Wednesday of January 1987, the
14 Governor ~~shall receive~~ is entitled to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. Beginning the
15 first Wednesday of January 2023, the Governor is entitled to receive an annual salary of
16 \$141,000. Beginning the first Wednesday of January 2027, whenever a new Governor
17 takes office, that Governor's annual salary must be adjusted by the percentage change in
18 the Consumer Price Index during the term of office of that Governor's predecessor except
19 that the calculation of this percentage change may not include a percentage increase in the
20 Consumer Price Index that exceeds 3% per year.

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

23 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §2, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. QQQQ, §1, is
24 further amended to read:

25 Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first
26 Wednesday of December 2000 and ~~thereafter~~ ending with the first Wednesday of
27 December 2022, is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each
28 biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the
29 federal Social Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director
30 of the Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator
31 is entitled to \$9,270 in each year of the biennium. Each member of the Senate and the
32 House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2022, is
33 entitled to \$23,500 in each year of the biennium. Each member of the Senate and the
34 House of Representatives must receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative
35 salary, except that the percentage increase may not exceed 5% in any year, and except
36 that the percentage increase may not exceed 3% beginning with the fiscal year ending
37 June 30, 2014. Beginning December 1, 2001, the salary for each legislative session must
38 be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for
39 the most recently concluded fiscal year; except that no member of the Senate or the
40 House of Representatives may receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative
41 salary for the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, and except that no

1 member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may receive a cost-of-living
2 adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 125th
3 Legislature and the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the 126th
4 Legislature, and any percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal years
5 ending June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 may not be applied to the base
6 salary. In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid for travel at each legislative
7 session once each week at the same rate per mile to and from that Legislator's place of
8 abode as state employees receive, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable
9 direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for travel on the
10 Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such tolls to be
11 reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from sessions of
12 the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments. Each
13 Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and those amounts of
14 salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session,
15 and the balance at the end of the session.

16 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §2-B, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 242, §1, is further
17 amended to read:

18 **1. State Compensation Commission; membership.** The State Compensation
19 Commission, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 26-D and referred to in
20 this section as the "commission," consists of ~~5~~ 6 members, 3 of whom are appointed in
21 January of every odd-numbered year at the first regular session of each Legislature as
22 follows:

23 A. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate with one member
24 appointed every 2 years;

25 B. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House with one member appointed
26 every 2 years; and

27 C. ~~One member appointed by a majority of the~~ Two members appointed ~~under~~
28 ~~paragraphs A and B, who serves as chair of the commission by the Governor with~~
29 one member appointed every 2 years.

30 The commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

31 The ~~5~~ 6 members must be residents of the State and appointed from the public. A person
32 may not be appointed who is currently or has previously been a Legislator or a legislative
33 employee.

34 All members must be appointed for a term to coincide with ~~the~~ 2 legislative ~~biennium~~
35 biennia. A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the
36 balance of the unexpired term.

37 The members of the commission are entitled to a per diem, expenses and allowances at
38 the same rate as Legislators.

39 **Sec. 4. Appointments to the State Compensation Commission.**
40 Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2-B, subsection 1, the
41 Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each shall appoint 2

1 members to the State Compensation Commission and each shall designate one member to
2 serve a 2-year term and one member to serve a 4-year term.

3

SUMMARY

4 This bill increases the annual salary of the Governor to \$141,000 beginning in
5 January 2023. The bill provides that beginning in January 2027, whenever a new
6 Governor takes office, that Governor's annual salary must be adjusted by the percentage
7 change in the Consumer Price Index during the term of office of that Governor's
8 predecessor subject to a limit of 3% per year.

9 The bill increases the annual salary of members of the Legislature to \$23,500
10 beginning in December 2022.

11 The bill provides that the Governor appoints 2 members of the State Compensation
12 Commission and removes language that provides that one member is appointed by a
13 majority of the members of the commission. The bill increases the term of members to 4
14 years and provides for staggered terms.