

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 974

H.P. 720

House of Representatives, March 9, 2021

**An Act To Ensure the Continuance of a Citizen Legislature by
Tying Future Pay to the State Minimum Wage**

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 BERRY of Bowdoinham.

Cosponsored by Representatives: OSHER of Orono, SKOLFIELD of Weld.

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 2011, c. 380, Pt. QQQQ, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 ~~Each~~ Until the first Wednesday of December 2024, each member of the Senate and
5 House of Representatives, ~~beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2000 and~~
6 ~~thereafter~~, is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each
7 biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the
8 federal Social Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director
9 of the Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator
10 is entitled to \$9,270 in each year of the biennium. ~~Each~~ Beginning the first Wednesday of
11 December 2024 and thereafter, in each year of a biennium each member of the Senate and
12 House of Representatives is entitled to be paid the equivalent of the minimum wage, as
13 defined in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1, times 2,000. Until the first Wednesday of
14 December 2024, each member of the Senate and the House of Representatives must receive
15 a an annual cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary, except that the percentage
16 increase may not exceed 5% in any year, and except that the percentage increase may not
17 exceed 3% beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 in any year. Beginning
18 ~~December 1, 2001~~ Until the first Wednesday of December 2024, the salary for each
19 legislative session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the
20 Consumer Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year; ~~except that no member~~
21 ~~of the Senate or the House of Representatives may receive a cost-of-living adjustment in~~
22 ~~annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, and~~
23 ~~except that no member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may receive a cost-~~
24 ~~of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the~~
25 ~~125th Legislature and the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the~~
26 ~~126th Legislature, and any percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal~~
27 ~~years ending June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 may not be applied to the~~
28 ~~base salary.~~ In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid once each week for travel at
29 each legislative session ~~once each week~~ at the same rate per mile to and from that
30 Legislator's place of abode as state employees receive, the mileage to be determined by the
31 most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for
32 travel on the Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such
33 tolls to be reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from
34 sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments.
35 Each Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and those amounts of
36 salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session, and
37 the balance at the end of the session.

38 **Sec. 2. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide election;**
39 **form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the
40 State at a statewide election held in the month of November following passage of this Act.
41 The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities,
42 towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide
43 election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following
44 question:

1 "Do you favor changing the pay received by members of the Senate and House of
2 Representatives to equal the pay received by a worker earning the hourly minimum
3 wage and working 2,000 hours per year?"

4 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question
5 and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
6 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared
7 in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in
8 the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the
9 returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the Governor shall
10 proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of
11 the proclamation.

12 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all
13 ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this
14 referendum.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill sets the annual legislative salary for each year of a biennium as equivalent
17 to the earnings of a worker earning hourly minimum wage and working 2,000 hours
18 per year beginning in 2025 subject to a voter referendum.