

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 531

H. P. 632 House of Representatives, Feb. 28, 1929.

Reported by Mr. Burkett from Committee on Revision of Statutes and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Burkett of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINE

RESOLVE, Relative to Compensation of Clarence W. Peabody,
Commissioner on the Revision and Consolidation of the Public Laws.

Resolved: That the sum of two thousand five hundred
2 dollars be and is hereby appropriated to be paid to Clarence
3 W. Peabody of Portland, for additional compensation, clerical
4 and general office expenses accruing prior to January
5 first, nineteen hundred twenty-nine, as commissioner on the
6 revision and consolidation of the public laws; the said money
7 to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury, on warrant
8 of the governor.

STATEMENT OF FACTS TO ACCOMPANY RESOLVE
RELATIVE TO COMPENSATION OF CLARENCE W.
PEABODY, COMMISSIONER ON THE REVISION
AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE PUBLIC LAWS

The appropriation made by chapter 179 of the Resolves of 1927 for the revision of the public laws was \$15,000. Of this the governor and council assigned \$6000 for the printing contract, leaving \$9000 from this appropriation for payment of other expenses of the commissioner, including his compensation. It was stated to the commissioner by the governor at the time of the commissioner's appointment, Nov. 9, 1927, that the balance of this appropriation, namely \$9000, was apparently inadequate, and the suggestion was made by the governor of a possible adjustment by this present legislature.

The commissioner was engaged in the work of revision for fourteen months, devoting to it practically his entire time, and for the last six months working evenings in addition to his usual office hours. He prepared the report in accordance with the terms of the resolve, and in addition, and at the express request of Mr. Linnell of the Governor's Council he extended the annotations beyond the requirements of the resolve by starting the leading cases cited from the Maine Reports. He also, to meet a general demand, prepared a more extended index than what he understands was required by the resolve.

He has disbursed from the appropriation \$3966.48 for supplies, clerical assistance and general office expenses, as appears from his manifests audited by the state auditor, and he has received or will receive from the appropriation, if his last voucher is allowed, \$5033.52 for compensation; from which latter sum however he has paid office rent, telephone, postage, and traveling expenses, and other incidental expenses which have not been returned to the auditor on separate vouchers, but which amount to more than five hundred dollars.

This makes the net compensation of the commissioner, received, or to be received from the present appropriation, viz., that of chapter 179 of the Resolves of 1927, about \$4500 for the period of fourteen months.

Assuming that the commissioner were paid on a salary basis, it is submitted that a salary equivalent to that of a Justice of

the Superior Court would not be excessive, viz.: \$7000 for a period of fourteen months. To make this up would require an additional payment to the commissioner of \$2500.