

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 71

S. P. 83

In Senate, January 20, 1949.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Ward of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

AN ACT Creating a Merit Award Board to Encourage and Reward Efficiency and Economy in State Government.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 59, §§ 6-A -- 6-D, additional. Chapter 59 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 4 new sections to be numbered 6-A to 6-D, inclusive, to read as follows:

Sec. 6-A. Merit award board created. There is hereby created the Maine state employees' merit award board, hereinafter in sections 6-A to 6-D, inclusive, called the "board", to consist of 3 persons, who may be state officers or employees, to be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council. One member of the board shall be designated by the governor to be the chairman thereof. The term of all members of the board shall be 4 years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled within 60 days after the vacancy occurs by the governor with the advice and consent of the council for the unexpired portion of the term. The members of such board shall serve without compensation, but they shall be reimbursed for the expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties hereunder. The state personnel board shall detail and assign for the use of the board such personnel and facil-

ities of the state personnel board as the board may require for the proper performance of its work. The board may appoint such other employees and assistants as it may require, prescribe their power and duties and fix their compensation within the amounts appropriated therefor. The board may request and shall receive from any state department such assistance as it may require, and each such department shall make available to the board, upon its request, any of its personnel and facilities required for the furtherance of the work of the board.

Sec. 6-B. Powers and duties. The merit award board shall have power and it shall be its duty:

I. To formulate, establish and maintain a plan or plans to encourage and reward unusual and meritorious suggestions and accomplishments by state employees promoting efficiency and economy in the performance of any function of state government.

II. To appoint departmental or divisional boards or committees to analyze and review suggestions and accomplishments of state employees submitted for consideration under such plan or plans and to make recommendations thereon to the board.

III. To make and render merit awards to or for the benefit of state employees nominated to receive them in accordance with such plan or plans.

Sec. 6-C. Awards. The merit award board may determine the nature and extent of the merit awards to be made under the provisions of this chapter which may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

I. Certificates, medals or other appropriate insignia which shall be in such form and shall be awarded at such times as the board may fix and determine.

II. Cash awards, which shall be of such amount and shall be payable at such times as the board may fix and determine.

III. In lieu of or in addition to a cash award, the board may, by certificate filed with the state personnel director, increase the compensation of the state employee nominated for the award, provided that no such award of increased compensation shall result in increasing the compensation of such employee beyond the maximum salary of the salary grade to which his position is allocated. A state employee receiving an award of increased compensation under the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed to have rendered satisfactory service in the position held by him for the period of time which would otherwise have elapsed before he be-

came entitled to the amount of the annual increment or increments corresponding to the amount of such increased compensation. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subsection, the state personnel director, upon receipt of such certificate, shall immediately file with the proper state officials the certification of payroll provided for by section 21, and payment of such increase is hereby authorized from any appropriation available to such department, institution or other state agency for personal services during the fiscal year in which said award is made, and all such appropriations shall be available for the payment of the additional compensation provided for by this subdivision.

Sec. 6-D. Rules and regulations. The merit award board shall have full power and authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation of any plan or plans established under this chapter, the eligibility and qualifications of state employees participating therein, the character and quality of suggestions and accomplishments submitted for consideration, the method of their submission and the procedure for their review, nominations for merit awards, and the kind, character and value of such awards, and such other rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate for the proper administration of the provisions of this chapter or for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There shall be appropriated from the general fund of the state the sum of \$10,000 to carry out the provisions of sections 6-A to 6-C, inclusive, of chapter 59.