



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1328

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S.P. 416

In Senate, March 19, 2019

### **An Act To Increase the Salaries of the Governor and Legislators**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, President JACKSON of Aroostook.

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~~ 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 following the election of a Governor who is not in office on December 2, 2020,  
16 the Governor receives an annual salary of \$125,000.

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

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

21 ~~Each~~ Until the first Wednesday of December 2020, each member of the Senate and  
22 House of Representatives, ~~beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2000 and~~  
23 ~~thereafter,~~ is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each  
24 biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the  
25 federal Social Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director  
26 of the Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator  
27 is entitled to \$9,270 in each year of the biennium. Beginning the first Wednesday of  
28 December 2020 and thereafter, each member of the Senate and House of Representatives  
29 is entitled to \$20,000 in the first year and \$15,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium,  
30 except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the federal Social  
31 Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director of the  
32 Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator is  
33 entitled to \$17,500 in each year of the biennium. Each member of the Senate and the  
34 House of Representatives must receive ~~a-~~ an annual cost-of-living adjustment in ~~annual~~  
35 legislative salary, except that the percentage increase may not exceed 5% ~~in any year, and~~  
36 ~~except that the percentage increase may not exceed 3% beginning with the fiscal year~~  
37 ~~ending June 30, 2014 in any year.~~ Beginning December 1, ~~2004~~ 2022, the salary for each  
38 legislative session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the  
39 Consumer Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year; ~~except that no member~~  
40 ~~of the Senate or the House of Representatives may receive a cost of living adjustment in~~  
41 ~~annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, and~~

1 except that no member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may receive a cost-  
2 of living adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the  
3 125th Legislature and the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the  
4 126th Legislature, and any percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal  
5 years ending June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 may not be applied to the  
6 base salary. In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid once each week for travel at  
7 each legislative session ~~once each week~~ at the same rate per mile to and from that  
8 Legislator's place of abode as state employees receive, the mileage to be determined by  
9 the most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid  
10 for travel on the Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls,  
11 such tolls to be reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and  
12 from sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee  
13 assignments. Each Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and  
14 those amounts of salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine  
15 during the session, and the balance at the end of the session.

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

18 Except as provided in this section, each member of the Senate and House of  
19 Representatives is entitled to a meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$40 and a housing  
20 allowance in the amount of ~~\$38~~ \$60 for each day in attendance at sessions of the  
21 Legislature and for each day the member occupies overnight accommodations away from  
22 home either immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions  
23 of the Legislature. The presiding officers may establish reasonable policies regarding  
24 allowances for meals and overnight accommodations for the day immediately preceding  
25 the session, which may include policies regarding whether an allowance is paid, whether  
26 the full amount or a portion of the statutory allowance is paid and whether receipts are  
27 required. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member is entitled to a daily  
28 meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$40 and actual daily mileage allowances in an  
29 amount up to but not exceeding ~~\$38~~ \$60 per day. Each member of the Senate also  
30 receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,300 in  
31 January and \$700 in the month following adjournment of the regular session. Each  
32 member of the House of Representatives also receives an annual allowance for  
33 constituent services in the amount of \$1,500, \$1,005 in January and \$495 in the month  
34 following adjournment of the regular session. Notwithstanding this section, during the  
35 first regular session of each legislative biennium, a member of the Senate or the House of  
36 Representatives may elect to receive the first payment of the annual allowance for  
37 constituent services in December following convening of the Legislature by notifying the  
38 Executive Director of the Legislative Council in the manner prescribed by the executive  
39 director. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall inform Legislators of  
40 the choice available for payment of the allowance for constituent services in the first year  
41 of the legislative biennium and of any tax implications associated with exercising that  
42 choice.

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

1 The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the floor  
2 leaders and their assistants and members of a committee, with the approval of the  
3 President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to members of a  
4 committee, may also meet on days when the Legislature is not in daily session at any  
5 convenient location within the State. Each member of the Senate and House of  
6 Representatives ~~shall receive~~ is entitled to \$55 for every day's attendance when meetings  
7 or daily sessions are held, a meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$40 and a housing  
8 allowance whereby actual lodging expenses will be reimbursed at the single-room rate,  
9 ~~provided that~~ as long as a receipt is submitted to the Executive Director of the Legislative  
10 Council for each day in attendance at such meetings or daily sessions and for each day  
11 that member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either immediately  
12 preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature, and  
13 actual daily mileage allowances, which ~~shall~~ must be paid at the same rate paid to state  
14 employees. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member ~~shall be~~ is entitled  
15 to a daily meal allowance in the amount of ~~\$32~~ \$40 and actual daily mileage allowances.

16 **Sec. 5. 3 MRSA §2, 13th ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §6; c. 600, Pt.  
17 B, §§9 and 10; and c. 878, Pt. D, §§14 and 15, is further amended to read:

18 If a member of the Legislature dies or otherwise vacates the office, the successor is  
19 entitled to a salary from the date of seating, computed as follows: ~~two hundred ten dollars~~  
20 \$210 per week times the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy  
21 occurs in the first year and \$150 per week for the number of weeks remaining in the  
22 calendar year if the vacancy occurs in the 2nd year. Beginning the first Wednesday of  
23 December 2020 and thereafter, the successor is entitled to a salary from the date of  
24 seating, computed as follows: \$400 per week multiplied by the number of weeks  
25 remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy occurs in the first year and \$300 per week  
26 multiplied by the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy occurs  
27 in the 2nd year. Beginning December 1, 2022, the salary under this paragraph for each  
28 legislative session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the  
29 Consumer Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year.

30 **Sec. 6. Effective date.** This Act takes effect December 2, 2020.

## 31 SUMMARY

32 This bill increases the Governor's salary from \$70,000 per year to \$125,000 per year.  
33 Since the Constitution of Maine prohibits the increase of the salary of a sitting Governor,  
34 this increase does not take effect until the election of a Governor not in office on  
35 December 2, 2020.

36 This bill also, beginning with the 130th Maine Legislature, increases the salary of  
37 Maine Legislators from \$14,862 in the first year and \$10,613 in the 2nd year of a  
38 biennium, after adjustment for inflation, to \$20,000 in the first year and \$15,000 in the  
39 2nd year of a biennium and the salary of a person who succeeds a member of the  
40 Legislature who dies or otherwise vacates office. This bill retains the annual cost-of-  
41 living adjustment for salary and clarifies that it applies to a successor's salary. This bill

1 also increases the per diem meal and housing allowances paid to Legislators from \$32  
2 and \$38 to \$40 and \$60, respectively.