



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1575

H.P. 1033

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

An Act to Allow a Legislator to Choose to Be Paid on an Annual Basis

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and
Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, GREENWOOD of
Wales, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas**, the salary for Legislators is currently paid in equal payments every 2 weeks
4 over the length of the legislative session based on statutory adjournment; and

5 **Whereas**, this compressed payment method means that no salary is received for the
6 rest of the year; and

7 **Whereas**, this legislation is immediately necessary to allow Legislators presently in
8 office to better plan for future expenses; and

9 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore,

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

14 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 446, §1, is further amended
15 to read:

16 Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first
17 Wednesday of December 2000 until the day before the first Wednesday of December 2024,
18 is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except
19 that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the federal Social Security
20 Administration files a written request with the Executive Director of the Legislative
21 Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$9,270
22 in each year of the biennium. Beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2024, each
23 member of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to \$25,000 in the first year
24 and \$20,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient
25 of retirement benefits from the federal Social Security Administration files a written
26 request with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one week after the
27 biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$22,500 in each year of the biennium.
28 Each member of the Senate and the House of Representatives must receive a cost-of-living
29 adjustment in annual legislative salary, except that the percentage increase may not exceed
30 5% in any year, and except that the percentage increase may not exceed 3% beginning with
31 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Beginning December 1, 2001, the salary for each
32 legislative session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the
33 Consumer Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year; except that a member of
34 the Senate or the House of Representatives may not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in
35 annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, and
36 except that a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may not receive a cost-
37 of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the
38 125th Legislature and the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the
39 126th Legislature, and any percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal
40 years ending June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 may not be applied to the
41 base salary. In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid mileage for travel at each
42 legislative session to and from that Legislator's place of abode at a rate of 55¢ per mile or
43 the federal standard mileage rate, whichever is lower, the mileage to be determined by the
44 most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for

1 travel on the Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such
2 tolls to be reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from
3 sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments.
4 Each Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and those amounts of
5 salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session, and
6 the balance at the end of the session, except that a Legislator may choose to be paid the
7 salary for each year of the biennium to which that Legislator is entitled pursuant to this
8 section in 26 equal payments over that corresponding year of the biennium, and a Legislator
9 who chooses this option must do so prior to the beginning of each regular session.

10 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
11 takes effect when approved.

12 SUMMARY

13 Under current practice, a Legislator receives the salary for a biennium divided into
14 equal payments spread out over the legislative session, beginning at the start of the session
15 and ending on the date of statutory adjournment for that session with the balance paid at
16 the end of each session. This bill allows a Legislator to opt to be paid over the length of
17 the year in an amount equal to the payment due for that session divided into 26 equal
18 payments.