

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—
H.P. 1312 - L.D. 1968

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Legislative Reimbursement

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, 4th ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 2, §3, is further amended to read:

Except as provided in this section, each member of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to the travel-related expenses of a meal allowance in the amount of \$50, or a higher amount set by the Legislative Council, and a housing allowance in the amount of \$70, or a higher amount set by the Legislative Council, for each day in attendance at sessions of the Legislature and for each day the member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature. The presiding officers may establish reasonable policies regarding allowances for meals and overnight accommodations for the day immediately preceding the session, which may include policies regarding whether an allowance is paid, whether the full amount or a portion of the ~~statutory~~ allowance is paid and whether receipts are required. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member is entitled to a daily meal allowance ~~in the amount of \$50~~ and actual daily mileage. Each member of the Senate also receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,300 in January and \$700 in the month following adjournment of the regular session. Each member of the House of Representatives also receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount of \$1,500, \$1,005 in January and \$495 in the month following adjournment of the regular session. Notwithstanding this section, during the first regular session of each legislative biennium, a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may elect to receive the first payment of the annual allowance for constituent services in December following convening of the Legislature by notifying the Executive Director of the Legislative Council in the manner prescribed by the executive director. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall inform Legislators of the choice available for payment of the allowance for constituent services in the first year of the legislative biennium and of any tax implications associated with exercising that choice. To set the amount of an allowance under this paragraph, at least 6 members of the Legislative Council must vote in favor of the allowance at the beginning of the first regular session or second regular session of a legislative biennium. The amount of an allowance

set by the Legislative Council under this paragraph may not exceed the regular federal per diem rate for lodging, meals and incidental expenses applicable to that allowance.

Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §2, 11th ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 2, §5, is further amended to read:

The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the floor leaders and their assistants and members of a committee, with the approval of the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to members of a committee, may also meet on days when the Legislature is not in daily session at any convenient location within the State. Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to receive \$55 for every day's attendance when meetings or daily sessions are held and the travel-related expenses of a meal allowance in the amount of \$50, or a higher amount set by the Legislative Council, and a housing allowance whereby actual lodging expenses will be reimbursed at the single-room rate, as long as a receipt is submitted to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council for each day in attendance at such meetings or daily sessions and for each day that member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature and actual daily mileage allowances at the rate of 55¢ per mile or the federal standard mileage rate, whichever is lower, for travel to and from that Legislator's place of abode, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable direct route. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member ~~shall be~~ is entitled to a daily meal allowance ~~in the amount of \$50~~ and actual daily mileage allowances. To set the amount of an allowance under this paragraph, at least 6 members of the Legislative Council must vote in favor of the allowance at the beginning of the first regular session or second regular session of a legislative biennium. The amount of an allowance set by the Legislative Council under this paragraph may not exceed the regular federal per diem rate for lodging, meals and incidental expenses applicable to that allowance.

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

If a member of the Legislature dies or otherwise vacates the office, the successor is entitled to a salary from the date of seating, ~~computed as follows: two hundred ten dollars per week times the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy occurs in the first year and \$150 per week for the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy occurs in the 2nd year~~ equal to the salary that would have been afforded to the successor had the successor been seated at the start of the biennium, except that the salary must be prorated from the date the successor is sworn into office.