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129TH MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
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Legislative Council Policy on Legislator Attendance

Pursuant to 3 MRSA, section 2, third paragraph, the 129th Legislative Council adopts the following policy regarding excessive unexcused Legislators absences and the means of reducing the offending member's salary.

Recording Attendance

At the beginning of each session of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall record the Senators that are absent each legislative day. Senators that arrive late for a Senate session must notify the Secretary of the Senate directly or indirectly through one of their floor leaders. The President must approve all leave from a Senate session.

At the beginning of each session of the House, the quorum call will be the official record of attendance. Members who miss the quorum call but did attend the session must notify the Clerk of the House. The House shall provide forms to members to request leave for a legislative day.

Reporting Absences

At least on a monthly basis, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall notify Legislators who have one or more absences without leave.

After a member has accumulated 10 excused absences for the First Regular Session or 6 excused absences for the Second Regular Session, the Clerk or Secretary will report the Member to their respective presiding officer for further review. The presiding officer may refer the matter to the Legislative Council's Personnel Committee for further action.

Reducing Legislator Salaries for Excess Absences without Leave

Members that exceed the statutory threshold of number of absences without leave will have the member's salary reduced using the following graduated reductions.

During the First Regular Session, salaries will be reduced by \$25 for each day above 5 days but less than 11 days, by \$50 per day for each day above 10 days but less than 16 days and \$100 per

day for each day greater than 15 days. Total salary reductions for absences without leave may not exceed the member's salary for the First Regular Session.

During the Second Regular Session, salaries will be reduced by \$25 for each day above 3 days but less than 7 days, by \$50 per day for each day above 6 days but less than 10 days and \$100 per day for each day greater than 9 days. Total salary reductions for absences without leave may not exceed the member's salary for the Second Regular Session.

During either session, if a member is absent without leave for more than 8 consecutive legislative days, the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House shall inform the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, who shall suspend the member's biweekly salary payments pending the member's return or approval of leave.

A Legislator may appeal salary reductions under this policy to the Personnel Committee of the Legislative Council.

This revised policy is adopted by the Legislative Council and is effective as of the date of amendment.

By: 
Executive Director of the Legislative Council

Authority: 3 MRSA §2

Adopted: February 14, 2017

Effective Date: February 14, 2017

Amended Date: September 20, 2018
December 6, 2018