



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 543

H.P. 348

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

An Act to Reimburse Counties for Judicial Costs

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LANDRY of Farmington.
Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln and
Representatives: COSTAIN of Plymouth, CRAFTS of Newcastle, HALL of Wilton, HEPLER
of Woolwich, LEMELIN of Chelsea, POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset, SOBOLESKI of
Phillips, Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §115, first ¶**, as corrected by RR 2009, c. 1, §4, is amended to
3 read:

4 In each county, the place for holding court is located in a building designated by the
5 Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court or the Chief Justice's designee, who, with the
6 advice and approval of the Bureau of General Services, is empowered to negotiate, on
7 behalf of the State, the leases, contracts and other arrangements the Chief Justice considers
8 necessary, within the limits of appropriations and other funds available to the Supreme
9 Judicial, Superior and District Courts, to provide suitable quarters, adequately furnished
10 and equipped, for the Supreme Judicial, Superior or District Court in each county. The
11 county commissioners in each county shall continue to provide for the use of the Supreme
12 Judicial, Superior and District Courts such quarters, facilities, furnishings and equipment
13 in existing county buildings as were in use by the Supreme Judicial and Superior Courts on
14 January 1, 1976, ~~without charge~~ and the Chief Justice or the Chief Justice's designee shall
15 reimburse the county for the cost of maintenance, supplies, cleaning, heat and electricity at
16 a rate per square foot for each county building to be determined by each county and the
17 Chief Justice or the Chief Justice's designee annually. The county commissioners are not
18 required to provide without charge those quarters, facilities, furnishings and equipment in
19 existing county buildings that were in use by the District Courts and were subject to a
20 charge prior to January 1, 1976.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court or the Chief Justice's
23 designee to reimburse counties for the cost of maintenance, supplies, cleaning, heat and
24 electricity at a rate per square foot to be determined by each county and the Chief Justice
25 or the Chief Justice's designee annually for certain county buildings used by the courts.