



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 725

S.P. 263

In Senate, February 27, 2013

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Judicial
Compensation Commission**

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by [introducer] from the Judicial Compensation Commission pursuant to the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 1701.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint
Rule 218.

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

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

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 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next
4 fiscal year; and

5 **Whereas,** current salaries for members of the State's judiciary are among the lowest
6 in the nation; and

7 **Whereas,** it is the recommendation of the Judicial Compensation Commission that
8 increases to judicial salaries become effective July 1, 2013; 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. 4 MRSA §4, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §1, is further
15 amended to read:

16 **1. Chief justice; salary.** The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court is entitled
17 to receive a salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2013-14 and thereafter, of ~~\$111,000~~ \$157,475,
18 to be paid biweekly.

19 **Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §4, sub-§2, ¶A,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt.
20 M, §2, is amended to read:

21 A. For fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2013-14 and thereafter, ~~\$96,000~~ \$136,214, to be paid
22 biweekly.

23 **Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §102, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §4, is
24 further amended to read:

25 **1. Chief justice; salary.** The Chief Justice of the Superior Court is entitled to
26 receive a salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2013-14 and thereafter, of ~~\$94,000~~ \$133,374, to
27 be paid biweekly.

28 **Sec. 4. 4 MRSA §102, sub-§2, ¶A,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 643,
29 Pt. M, §5, is amended to read:

30 A. For fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2013-14 and thereafter, ~~\$90,000~~ \$127,629, to be paid
31 biweekly.

32 **Sec. 5. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §7, is
33 further amended to read:

1 **2. Chief Judge; salary.** The Chief Judge of the District Court is entitled to receive a
2 salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2013-14 and thereafter, of ~~\$94,000~~ \$133,374, to be paid
3 biweekly.

4 **Sec. 6. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. M, §8, is
5 further amended to read:

6 **3. Deputy Chief Judge; salary.** The Deputy Chief Judge of the District Court is
7 entitled to receive a salary, for fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2013-14 and thereafter, of ~~\$92,000~~
8 \$130,533, to be paid biweekly.

9 **Sec. 7. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§4, ¶A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 643,
10 Pt. M, §9, is amended to read:

11 A. For fiscal year ~~1998-99~~ 2013-14 and thereafter, ~~\$90,000~~ \$127,629, to be paid
12 biweekly.

13 **Sec. 8. 4 MRSA §1701, sub-§13**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 509, §1 and
14 affected by §8, is further amended to read:

15 **13. Biennial report required.** No later than December ~~1st~~ 15th of each even-
16 numbered year, the commission shall make its biennial report to the joint standing
17 committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations matters and judicial
18 matters. The biennial report must include findings, conclusions and recommendations as
19 to the proper salary and benefits, including retirement, to be paid from the State Treasury
20 and other sources for all justices and judges of this State. The commission is authorized
21 to submit with its report any proposed legislation the commission determines necessary to
22 implement these recommendations.

23 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
24 legislation takes effect July 1, 2013.

25 SUMMARY

26 This bill implements the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation
27 Commission. It increases the salary of justices in the Supreme Judicial Court, Superior
28 Court and District Court to provide a cost-of-living increase equal to the amount that
29 would have been awarded had statutory increases been granted in fiscal year 2003-04,
30 fiscal year 2004-05, fiscal year 2010-11, fiscal year 2011-12 and fiscal year 2012-13. It
31 also changes the reporting deadline for the Judicial Compensation Commission from
32 December 1st to December 15th.