

LD 1680 An Act To Amend Legislative Expenses Reimbursement and Allowances (Miramant)

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

From: Lynne Caswell, Esq., Legislative Analyst

Date: May 12, 2021

*electronic
record*<http://legislature.maine.gov/ctl/SLG/05-07-2021?panel=3&time=1&sortdir=0&sortby=2>**SUMMARY**

This bill makes changes to the laws governing compensation, reimbursements and allowances for Legislators.

1. Beginning with the 131st Legislature, it increases the salary of Legislators from an estimated \$15,954 in the first year and \$11,125 in the 2nd year of a biennium, after adjustment for inflation, to \$20,000 in each year of the biennium.
2. It increases the mileage allowance for Legislators from 44¢ per mile to the lower of the federal mileage rate or 56¢ per mile.
3. Beginning with the 131st Legislature, it changes the lodging rate for Legislators. Currently, the lodging rate is \$38 per day; this bill changes the rate to an amount determined annually by the Legislative Council, which must be no less than the lower of the average nightly rate of lodging in the Augusta area and the federal per diem rate for lodging.
4. Beginning with the 131st Legislature, it provides a weekly allowance of \$250 for any week during a period of national emergency or civil emergency in which a Legislator is required to work remotely, attends an authorized committee meeting and does not otherwise travel to the State House.

TESTIMONY***Sponsor** Senator Miramant

- This is more than a full-time job
- Will expand the type of people who are able to serve
- Same salary each year
- Mileage reimbursement in line with federal rate

Proponents: none**Opponents:** none**NFNA:** none**INFORMATION REQUESTS**

none

FISCAL IMPACT - Preliminary (OFPR)

None provided as of this date.

* The section is not intended to reflect all comments and may include unintentionally errors.