



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1427

S.P. 439

In Senate, March 28, 2019

An Act To Amend the Legislative Expense Reimbursement

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

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

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship and
Senators: CHENETTE of York, CLAXTON of Androscoggin, CYRWAY of Kennebec,
LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, DODGE of Belfast,
HANINGTON of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, 4th ¶**, as corrected by RR 2001, c. 2, Pt. A, §1, is amended to
3 read:

4 ~~Except~~ Until the 130th Legislature, except as provided in this section, each member
5 of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to a meal allowance in the amount
6 of \$32 and a housing allowance in the amount of \$38 for each day in attendance at
7 sessions of the Legislature and for each day the member occupies overnight
8 accommodations away from home either immediately preceding or immediately
9 following attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature. Beginning with the 130th
10 Legislature, each member of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to a
11 meal allowance of \$32 and a housing allowance in an amount determined annually by the
12 Legislative Council, which must be no less than the average nightly rate of lodging in the
13 Augusta area, for each day in attendance at sessions of the Legislature and for each day
14 the member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either immediately
15 preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the Legislature. The
16 presiding officers may establish reasonable policies regarding allowances for meals and
17 overnight accommodations for the day immediately preceding the session, which may
18 include policies regarding whether an allowance is paid, whether the full amount or a
19 portion of the ~~statutory~~ allowance is paid and whether receipts are required. In lieu of the
20 meal and housing allowance, each member is entitled to a daily meal allowance in the
21 amount of \$32 and actual daily mileage allowances in an amount up to but not exceeding
22 \$38 per day. Each member of the Senate also receives an annual allowance for
23 constituent services in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,300 in January and \$700 in the month
24 following adjournment of the regular session. Each member of the House of
25 Representatives also receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount
26 of \$1,500, \$1,005 in January and \$495 in the month following adjournment of the regular
27 session. Notwithstanding this section, during the first regular session of each legislative
28 biennium, a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may elect to receive
29 the first payment of the annual allowance for constituent services in December following
30 convening of the Legislature by notifying the Executive Director of the Legislative
31 Council in the manner prescribed by the executive director. The Executive Director of
32 the Legislative Council shall inform Legislators of the choice available for payment of
33 the allowance for constituent services in the first year of the legislative biennium and of
34 any tax implications associated with exercising that choice.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill changes, beginning with the 130th Legislature, the per diem housing
37 allowance from a set amount of \$38 per day to an amount that is established annually by
38 the Legislative Council based on the average rate of lodging in the Augusta area.