

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 322**

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H. P. 840 House of Representatives, Feb. 4, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Labor and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Cobb of Gardiner.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

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AN ACT Relating to the Employment of Minors.

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

Section 1. Section eighteen of chapter fifty-four, is hereby amended, by striking out in line eight thereof after the word "employed" the words "as usher or attendant," so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 18. Employment of children under certain ages, regulated. No child under fourteen years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in, about, or in connection with any manufacturing or mechanical establishment, bowling-alley, or pool-room. Except as hereinafter provided, no child under fifteen years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work at any business or service for hire, whatever, during the hours that the public schools of the town or city in which he resides are in session. No minor under sixteen years of age shall be employed in any theater or moving picture house.'

Sect. 2. Section nineteen of chapter fifty-four, is hereby amended, by striking out in line thirteen thereof after the word "the" the words "first eight yearly," so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 19. Regulations for employment of minors between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years of age; issuance of work

permits. No minor between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in any of the aforementioned occupations unless the person, firm, or corporation employing such child procures and keeps on file accessible to any attendance officer, factory inspector, or other authorized officer charged with the enforcement of sections eighteen to thirty-six, both inclusive, of this chapter, a work permit issued to said child by the superintendent of schools of the city or town in which the child resides, or by some person authorized by him in writing. The person authorized to issue a work permit shall not issue such permit until such child has furnished such issuing officer a certificate signed by the principal of the school last attended showing that the child can read and write correctly simple sentences in the English language and that he has satisfactorily completed the studies covered in the grades of the elementary public schools, or their equivalent; in case such certificate cannot be obtained, then the officer issuing the work permit shall examine such child to determine whether he can meet the educational standard specified and shall file in his office a statement setting forth the result of such examination; nor until he has received, examined, approved, and filed satisfactory evidence of age showing that the child is fourteen years old or upwards; such evidence shall consist of a certified copy of the town clerk's record of the birth of said child, or a certified copy of his baptismal record, showing the date of his birth and place of baptism, or a passport showing the date of birth. In the event of the minor being unable to produce the evidence heretofore mentioned, and the person authorized to issue the work permit being satisfied of that fact, the said work permit may be issued on other documentary evidence of age satisfactory to the person authorized to issue the work permit, provided said documentary evidence has been approved by the state commissioner of labor. The superintendent of schools, or the person authorized to issue such work permit may require, in doubtful cases, a certificate signed by a physician appointed by the school board, or, in case there is no school physician, from the medical officer of the board of health, stating that such child has been examined by him, and, in his opinion, has reached the normal development of a child of its age, and is in sufficiently sound health and physically able to perform the work

which he intends to do. A child between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who, because of subnormal mental capacity, is unable to successfully pass the tests necessary to allow a regular work permit to be issued, may under conditions deemed proper receive a work permit issued jointly by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of labor and industry, such persons to be employed in non-hazardous occupations. The state factory inspector, his deputy, or agent, may require a similar certificate in doubtful cases of the minors employed under a work permit. A work permit when duly issued shall excuse such child from attendance at public schools; but no person shall issue such permit to any minor then in or about to enter his employment or the employment of the firm or corporation of which he is a member, stockholder, officer, or employee.'