

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1663

H. P. 1195

House of Representatives, January 17, 1966

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dumont of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SIX

**RESOLVE, Providing Funds for Enforcement of the Fair Minimum Wages
for Construction of Public Improvements.**

Appropriation. Resolved: That the sum of \$9,000 be appropriated from the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1966 and ending June 30, 1967 to the Department of Labor and Industry for the purpose of administering the requirements of chapter 406 of the public laws of 1965.

Statement of Facts

The Maine Legislature adopted chapter 406 of the public laws of 1965 which requires that the Department of Labor and Industry survey wage rates paid to workmen, laborers or mechanics in the construction industry in the State and from this survey determine the rate of wages paid to the majority of such workers. This rate paid to the majority shall be declared by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to be the fair minimum wage rate applicable to all construction contracts of \$5,000 or more let by the State.

No contract of \$5,000 or more can be let by the State without this determination, and it is essential that the work be done accurately and according to the requirements of the Act.

Once the contracts are let the law requires that they keep posted the "statement of all fair minimum wage rates to be paid" and the Department of Labor and Industry, charged as it is with the responsibility of enforcing all laws regulating the payment of wages, and all laws enacted for the protection of the working classes, need funds so that inspectors from the department can determine whether contractors are in compliance with the law.

The 102nd Legislature inadvertently failed to include in chapter 406 of the public laws of 1965 an appropriation for other than the Board of Appeals meetings.

In order to meet the requirements of the law for the first year of the biennium the Governor and Council adopted an Order taking care of the first year of the biennium, but it is now essential that funds for the 2nd year of the biennium be provided.