

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1704

S. P. 577

In Senate, January 6, 1970

The Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Tanous of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
AND SEVENTY

**AN ACT Appropriating Funds for Employment of an Occupational Safety
Engineer by the Department of Labor and Industry.**

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

Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry, the sum of \$12,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1970-71
LABOR AND INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF	
Personal Services	(1) \$ 9,000
All Other	3,000
	<hr/>
	\$12,000

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Chapter 454, An Act Establishing an Occupational Safety Rules and Regulations Board was adopted by the regular session of the 104th Legislature but did not carry an appropriation for additional staff because the Department of Labor and Industry had requested in its budget request to the Governor the establishment of 4 additional safety inspectors positions and his supplemental appropriation request reduced this to one; and when the Oc-

cupational Safety Board bill was under consideration, confident that that feature of the supplemental bill would be adopted, the department did not put a price tag and request an additional staff member on the occupational safety bill. The supplemental appropriation bill was amended and this position cut out. There should be no price tag on saving life and limb, but the State's accident frequency rate has worsened each year since 1965.

The Maine All Manufacturing frequency rate of 22.5 lost time injuries per million manhours worked is a sorry comparison to the U. S. All Manufacturing frequency of 14.0.

The Occupational Safety Division has long been undermanned and with the present staff of a director and 2 inspectors it is impossible to effectively reduce the number of injuries.

If a Federal Occupational Safety law is adopted the State of Maine may be pre-empted from having any jurisdiction over occupational safety in businesses engaged in interstate commerce unless the department meets their standards of enforcement.