

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 449

H. P. 357

House of Representatives, January 29, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Henderson of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Protect Minimum Wage Standards from Inflation.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA, § 661, is amended by adding 2 new paragraphs at the end to read:

It is also the declared public policy of the State of Maine that minimum wages required by the State shall not be reduced in purchasing power because of inflation.

It is further the declared public policy of the State of Maine that the minimum wage required by Maine law shall in no case be less than the highest federal minimum wage.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA, § 664, first sentence, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 752, § 1, is further amended to read:

By reason of the declaration of policy set forth in section 661 and in the protection of the industry or business and in the enhancement of public interest, health, safety and welfare, it is declared unlawful for any employer to employ any employee, except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, at the rate of less than \$2 per hour; nor work more than 40 hours in one week, unless 1½ times the regular hourly rate is paid for all work done over 40 hours in any one week; and whenever the highest federal minimum wage is increased in excess of \$2 per hour, the minimum wage established under this section shall be increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in the highest federal minimum wage ~~but in no case shall the minimum wage exceed \$3 per hour.~~

Sec. 3. 26 MRSA, § 664-A, is enacted to read:

§ 664-A. Annual adjustment of minimum wage by consumer price index

The Commissioner of Manpower Affairs shall, annually on each January 1st, adjust the minimum wage of the State of Maine and round it to the next highest 5¢ figure, in accordance with the changes in the cost of living index maintained by the United States Department of Labor. The base period for the first adjustment shall be October 15, 1974.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act declares it the policy of the State of Maine that the purchasing power of the minimum wage shall not be reduced because of inflation. It also provides that the minimum wage shall be no lower than the highest federal minimum wage and removes the \$3 per hour ceiling on the minimum wage.

Finally, this Act provides for an annual adjustment of the minimum wage to reflect any increase in the cost of living.