

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1165

S. P. 362

In Senate, March 21, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Johnston of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

**AN ACT Concerning Seasonal Potato Packers under the Workmen's
Compensation Act.**

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

39 MRSA § 4, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 746, § 4, is further amended by adding after the 3rd sentence the following:

However, employees employed by a potato packing business, which business customarily operates during a regularly reoccurring period of at least 210 days in a calendar year, shall not be deemed casual or seasonal laborers for the purpose of this chapter.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The bill exempts employees of the potato packing business from being classified as seasonal or casual laborers, provided that the employees are employed by a business engaged in potato packing for a regularly reoccurring period of at least 210 days for each calendar year. The potato packing industry has experienced great difficulty in recent years in securing sufficient numbers of capable workers, due in large part to the reluctance of employees to work in this type of industry with no possibility of benefits under the workmen's compensation statutes. This bill will permit them to receive benefits under the workmen's compensation statutes.