

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

(EMERGENCY)  
New Draft of: H. P. 148, L. D. 173

---

---

## ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

---

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1833**

---

H. P. 1520

House of Representatives, April 21, 1975

Reported by Report A from the Committee on Labor and printed under  
Joint Rules No. 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

---

### STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

---

#### AN ACT to Increase the Minimum Wage to \$2.50 an Hour.

---

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the purchasing power of workers in the State has been substantially reduced by record rates of inflation; and

Whereas, it is probable that this reduction in purchasing power will continue over the next year or longer; and

Whereas, this condition places an onerous burden on the families of Maine workers and has other serious negative effects for the economy of the State; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**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~~ \$2.10 per hour, until May 4, 1975, \$2.30 per hour from

May 5, 1975 through December 31, 1975 and \$2.50 per hour after December 31, 1975; or to require any employee to ~~not~~ work more than 40 hours in one week, unless  $1\frac{1}{2}$  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 state minimum wage established above, 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.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to raise the minimum wage to the higher of either the highest federal minimum wage or a new state minimum wage to be implemented as follows:

- \$2.30 per hour from May 5, 1975 through December 31, 1975.
- \$2.50 per hour after December 31, 1975.