

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 640

H. P. 564

House of Representatives, February 4, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Leighton of Harrison.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Allow a 30-Day Deductible Provision in Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage.

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

39 MRSA § 23, sub-§ 6 is enacted to read:

6. Initial compensation. Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this subsection, an employer may contract with the insurance company providing it with workers' compensation insurance coverage, or with the group with which it is a participating self-insurer, such that the employer, alone, is liable for the first 30 days of compensation payable to an employee pursuant to sections 54 or 55.

STATEMENT OF FACT

With the high cost of workers' compensation insurance, it is essential that every effort be made to control that cost. This bill allows employers to purchase insurance with a 30-day deductible for wage loss coverage; the insurance will still provide full medical coverage and all other benefits, with the only difference being that the employer would pay the first 30 days of wage loss benefits. This provision should allow for a substantial reduction in rates without reducing benefits. In addition, with employers responsible for the first 30 days, it is anticipated that more personal efforts will be made to encourage injured workers to return to work either by making accommodations in their job or by placement in alternative interim jobs compatible with that person's condition.