

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1168

H. P. 983

House of Representatives, March 9, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Hobbins of Saco.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide Employees in Private Long-term Care Facilities and Service Agencies Wages and Fringe Benefits Equivalent to Wages and Fringe Benefits Paid in State Facilities.

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

22 MRSA § 3274-B is enacted to read:

§ 3274-B. Legislative intent

The Legislature finds that employees in the private sector, long-term care facilities such as nursing homes and boarding care facilities and agencies such as home health and homemaker agencies are inadequately compensated. Their wages are considerably less than those of state employees in comparable positions even though the wages of both private and public sector employees are primarily funded by public moneys.

The Legislature declares that it should be the policy of the State that wage scale levels and fringe benefits for employees of long-term care facilities and agencies in the private sector should be similar to wage levels and fringe benefits for similar positions in the public sector; however, there should not be any resultant loss of positions or decreased availability of long-term care services.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Wages for long-term care employees are at or near the minimum wage level and fringe benefits are virtually nonexistent.

The Governor's Task Force on Long-term Care concluded that this situation is unacceptable. The serious problem of long-term care recipients cannot be addressed until wage levels and fringe benefits are at least equivalent to those of workers in state institutions.

The task force concluded that in the long run there would be substantial savings in training costs by having a stable work force.

Quality care which the task force concluded, is the most critical element in long-term care for Maine citizens in need, would obviously be improved.