

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (New Draft of H.P. 657, L.D. 831)
2 (New Title)

3 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
4

5 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
6

7 Legislative Document

No. 1675

9 H.P. 1265

House of Representatives, May 24, 1983

10 Reported by the Majority from the Committee on Labor and printed
11 under Joint Rule 2.

12 Original bill presented by Representative Beaulieu of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative Mayo of Thomaston.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

14 STATE OF MAINE
15

16 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
17 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
18

19 RESOLVE, Providing for Collection of Data
20 and Promulgation of Rules Concerning
21 Occupational Safeguards for Operators of
22 Video Display Terminals.
23

24 Bureau of Labor Standards authorized to collect
25 data. Resolved: That the Bureau of Labor Standards
26 is authorized and directed to collect statistics,
27 medical information and other data relating to elec-
28 tronic video screen data presentation machines, com-
29 monly called video display terminals or cathode-ray
30 tubes; and be it further

31 Bureau of Labor Standards authorized to study
32 issues. Resolved: That the Bureau of Labor Standards
33 is authorized and directed to study the following
34 issues relating to use of these terminals by state
35 and other public employees:

1 1. Whether or not the need exists for work-rest
2 regimens and standards on the length of terminal use
3 each working day to minimize visual, muscular and
4 stress problems in terminal operators;

5 2. Whether or not the need exists for periodic
6 vision testing of terminal operators to monitor and
7 protect vision;

8 3. Whether or not the need exists to ensure
9 proper ergonomics in the workplace, including issues
10 such as proper illumination and glare control, opti-
11 mum viewing distances, desk and chair heights and ad-
12 equate back support provided by operator chairs;

13 4. Whether or not the need exists to ensure
14 proper terminal maintenance to minimize health prob-
15 lems;

16 5. Whether or not the need exists for employee
17 education on the proper use of terminals to ensure
18 health and safety; and

19 6. The fiscal impact of safety measures; and be
20 it further

21 Bureau of Labor Standards to promulgate rules;
22 and to report to Legislature. Resolved: That the
23 Bureau of Labor Standards shall use the data col-
24 lected and the information resulting from study of
25 the issues in this resolve to decide whether health
26 and safety measures are necessary and, if necessary,
27 to promulgate any rules, using the Maine Administra-
28 tive Procedure Act, Revised Statutes, Title 5,
29 section 8051, that are needed to provide minimal
30 occupational safeguards for state and public employ-
31 ees who operate video display terminals. The bureau
32 shall report back to the Legislature a summary of the
33 data and information collected, along with any rules
34 promulgated on this subject.

35 STATEMENT OF FACT

36 This new draft authorizes and directs the Bureau
37 of Labor Standards to collect data, study certain
38 safety and health issues and promulgate any rules

1 seen as necessary to provide minimal occupational
2 safeguards for state and public employees who operate
3 video display terminals. These machines are part of
4 a relatively new technology and therefore studies are
5 only starting to be done on the health effects on
6 users. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Standards may
7 gather statistics, medical information and other data
8 to enable it to determine if rules are needed. The
9 bureau will study several issues relating to terminal
10 use, such as the need for work-rest regimens, peri-
11 odic vision testing, terminal maintenance, employee
12 education, the need to ensure proper ergonomics in
13 the workplace and the fiscal impact of safety mea-
14 sures. The bureau then shall use this information to
15 decide whether rules are needed and to promulgate
16 rules under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act,
17 the Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, that are
18 necessary to provide minimal safeguards for public
19 employees operating video display terminals.

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