

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1902

(Filing No. H-482 )

STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
111TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1450,  
L.D. 1902, Bill, "AN ACT to Amend the Cessation of  
Employment Law."

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting  
clause the following:

'Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §626, as amended by PL 1975, c.  
623, §§37-A and 37-B, is further amended by adding at  
the end a new paragraph to read:

An action for unpaid wages under this section may  
be brought by the affected employee or employees or  
by the Department of Labor on behalf of the employee  
or employees. An employer found in violation of this  
section shall be liable for the amount of unpaid wages  
and, in addition, the judgment rendered in favor of  
the employee or employees shall include a reasonable  
rate of interest, an additional amount equal to twice  
the amount of those wages as liquidated damages and  
costs of suit, including a reasonable attorney's  
fee.'

Further amend the bill in section 2 by striking  
out everything after the amending clause (page 1,  
lines 30 to 33 and page 2, lines 1 and 2 in L.D.) and  
inserting in its place the following:

'The ~~suit~~ action for unpaid wages may be brought  
by either the affected employee or employees or by  
the Department of Labor. When the action is brought  
by the Department of Labor, both the civil and criminal  
causes of action may be joined in the same pro-  
ceeding. The Department of Labor is further autho-  
rized to supervise the payment of the judgment, col-  
lect the judgment on behalf of the employee or em-  
ployees and collect fines incurred through violation

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1450, L.D. 1902

1 of this subchapter.'

2 Further amend the bill by renumbering the sec-  
3 tions to read consecutively.

4 STATEMENT OF FACT

5 The purpose of this amendment is to specify that  
6 suits for unpaid wages owed may be brought either by  
7 the affected employee or employees, or by the Depart-  
8 ment of Labor on behalf of the employee or employees.  
9 The department may join the criminal action to col-  
10 lect a penalty with the civil action for unpaid wages  
11 in the same court proceeding, and is also authorized  
12 to supervise payment and otherwise collect a judgment  
13 rendered in favor of an employee. In addition, the  
14 amendment makes it clear an employer is liable for  
15 payment of wages owed, judgments ordered by the court  
16 and costs of suit including reasonable attorney's  
17 fees.

Reported by the Committee on Labor  
Reproduced and distributed under the direction  
of the Clerk of the House  
2/23/84 (Filing No. H-482)