

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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D. OF R.

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L.D. 1634
(Filing No. S-254)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
112TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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SENATE AMENDMENT "H" to H.P. 1127, L.D. 1634,
Bill, "AN ACT to Improve the Workers' Compensation
System and Reform the Rate-making Process."

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Amend the bill by striking out all of the emer-
gency preamble and inserting in its place the follow-
ing:

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'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
lature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

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Whereas, the State has a high rate of occupation-
al injury and disability and in consequence thereof
has high workers' compensation costs; and

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Whereas, it is in the public interest to immedi-
ately act to reduce injuries and deaths and their hu-
man and financial cost and to restore injured workers
to suitable employment and to provide for appropriate
incentives for workplace safety and thus reduce the
cost of workers' compensation; and

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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 preser-
vation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
therefore, '

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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The fundamental facts recited in the emergency
preamble are untrue. The emergency preamble alleges
that workers' compensation costs are rising in Maine

SENATE AMENDMENT "H" to H.P. 1127, L.D. 1634

1 when, in fact, they have been stable for 4 years.
2 The emergency preamble implies that workers' compen-
3 sation costs are higher in Maine than in other New
4 England states which is again untrue. Maine workers'
5 compensation costs are average for the New England
6 states. Lastly, the emergency preamble alleges that
7 the Maine economy has been hurt and job creation af-
8 fected whereas, in fact, 1984 was a banner year for
9 the Maine economy; the best peacetime ever in terms
10 of job creation, income increases and low unemploy-
11 ment rate. The rate of increase in wages in Maine in
12 the last 4 years has exceeded the national average
13 and is the highest in New England.

14 It is important that the emergency preamble be
15 accurate and it is crucial that it not be demonstra-
16 bly untrue.

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(Sen. Matthews)

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