MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	SECOND REG	GULAR SESSION	
	ONE HUNDRED AND	TWELFTH LEGISLATURE	
Legislativ	e Document		No. 209
H.P. 1485	Но	ouse of Representatives, Februar	y 28, 198
pursuant t	o Joint Rule 26.	majority of the Legislative Cou Labor suggested and ordered pr	
	by Representative Higgins onsored by Representative I		RT, Cler
	STATE	OF MAINE	
		AR OF OUR LORD RED AND EIGHTY-SIX	
	Benefits Due u	ge Prompt Payment of under the Workers' ation Act.	
Be it e		ole of the State of Man	ine as
Sec read:	. 1. 39 MRSA §1	11-A, sub-§3 is enac	cted to
$\begin{array}{c} 3. \\ \text{If} \text{an} \\ \text{of the} \end{array}$	employee is not p	epayment in timely fa aid benefits within or informal conference ar	ne week
		ler this Act and, as a	
of the	delay in receivi:	ng benefits, the emplo	oyee or
		oss of housing through	
threat	thereof or simil	ent, mortgage foreclosu ar reason; or suffer	are or
		ng household goods and	
vehicle	s for nonpayment r	epossession or threat	there-
of, or	cancellation of in	surance; when such r	nonpay-
ment w	as caused or cont	ributed to by the fail	lure of

1	the employer to pay workers' compensation benefits in
2	a timely fashion within one week of the informal con-
3	ference, in addition to other benefits due under the
4	Act, the employer shall pay the full direct and indi-
5	rect financial loss suffered by the employee and his
6	dependents as a result of the employer's failure to
7	pay benefits within one week of the informal confer-
8	ence.

Sec. 2. 39 MRSA §111-A, as amended by PL 1977, c. 696, §408, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The commission may enforce this section and after the hearing shall issue appropriate decrees and orders. The orders shall include financial compensation for losses to date with authority to issue continuing orders with the purpose of making whole the injured worker and his family.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill, in order to encourage prompt payment of workers' compensation benefits, requires any employer who unnecessarily delays payment of benefits due shall be liable for consequential damages.

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