

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 541

H.P. 407 House of Representatives, February 25, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered  
printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative BEGLEY of Waldoboro.  
Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of Aroostook and  
Representative ZIRNKILTON of Mount Desert.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT Concerning the Definition of Injury  
2 under the Workers' Compensation Act.  
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 39 MRSA §2, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

7 13. Injury. "Injury" means an injury by acci-  
8 dent arising out of and in the course of employment.

9 Sec. 2. Application. This Act shall apply only  
10 as to injuries occurring on or after its effective  
11 date.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to narrow the scope  
3 of conditions which are compensable under the Work-  
4 ers' Compensation Act. In Maine, there is currently  
5 no requirement that a condition be caused by a  
6 work-related accident in order to be compensable.  
7 Consequently, conditions associated with such things  
8 as aging, stress and the natural deterioration of the  
9 body are often the subject of workers' compensation  
10 awards.

11 In at least 35 other states, an injury must be  
12 due to a work-related "accident" in order to be com-  
13 pensable. It is the general rule nationwide.  
14 Maine's departure from this general rule is partly  
15 responsible for Maine's workers' compensation costs  
16 being among the highest in the nation.

17 This bill places Maine in the mainstream with  
18 other states.

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