

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 60

H.P. 35

House of Representatives, January 9, 1997

**An Act to Provide for the Collection of Data Relating to the Risks from
Exposure to Chemicals in the Workplace.**

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MERES of Norridgewock.
Cosponsored by Representatives: HATCH of Skowhegan, SAMSON of Jay, WINGLASS of
Auburn, Senator: CAREY of Kennebec.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §42, first ¶**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. B, §24, is amended to read:

6 The bureau shall collect, assort and arrange statistical
8 details relating to all departments of labor and industrial
10 pursuits in the State; to trade unions and other labor
12 organizations and their effect upon labor and capital; to the
14 number and character of industrial accidents and their effect
16 upon the injured, their dependent relatives and upon the general
18 public; to the level of chemical exposures in industrial settings
20 and service sector businesses such as body shops and dry cleaning
22 establishments; to other matters relating to the commercial,
24 industrial, social, educational, moral and sanitary conditions
26 prevailing within the State, including the names of firms,
28 companies or corporations, where located, the kind of goods
30 produced or manufactured, the time operated each year, the number
32 of employees classified according to age and sex and the daily
34 and average wages paid each employee; and the exploitation of
36 such other subjects as will tend to promote the permanent
38 prosperity of the industries of the State. The director is
40 authorized and empowered, subject to the approval of the
42 Governor, to accept from any other agency of government,
44 individual, group or corporation such funds as may be available
46 in carrying out this section, and meet such requirements with
48 respect to the administration of such funds, not inconsistent
50 with this section, as are required as conditions precedent to
 receiving such funds. An accounting of such funds and a report of
 the use to which they were put ~~shall~~ must be included in the
 biennial report to the Governor. Each agency of government shall
 cooperate fully with the bureau's efforts to compile labor and
 industrial statistics. The director shall cause to be enforced
 all laws regulating the employment of minors and women; all laws
 established for the protection of health, lives and limbs of
 operators in workshops and factories, on railroads and in other
 places; all laws regulating the payment of wages; and all laws
 enacted for the protection of the working classes. The director
 shall, on or before the first day of July, biennially, report to
 the Governor, and may make such suggestions and recommendations
 as the director ~~may-deem~~ considers necessary for the information
 of the Legislature. The director may from time to time cause to
 be printed and distributed bulletins upon any subject that shall
 be is of public interest and benefit to the State and may conduct
 a program of research, education and promotion to reduce
 industrial accidents. The director may review various data, such
 as workers' compensation records, as well as other information
 relating to any public or private employer's safety experience.
 When any individual public or private employer's safety
 experience causes the director to

2 question seriously the safe working environment of that employer,
the director may offer any safety education and consultation
4 programs to that employer that may be beneficial in providing a
safer work environment. If the employer refuses this assistance
6 or is in serious noncompliance which that may lead to injuries,
or if serious threats to worker safety continue, then the
8 director shall communicate concerns to appropriate agencies, such
as the United States Occupational Safety and Health
10 Administration. As used in this section, the term
"noncompliance" means a lack of compliance with any applicable
12 health and safety regulations of the United States Occupational
Safety and Health Administration or other federal agencies. The
14 bureau shall ~~be~~ is responsible for the enforcement of indoor air
quality and ventilation standards with respect to state-owned
16 buildings and buildings leased by the State. The bureau shall
enforce air quality standards in a manner to ensure that
18 corrections to problems found in buildings be made over a
reasonable period of time, using consent agreements and other
20 approaches as necessary and reasonable.

Sec. 2. Report. The Bureau of Labor Standards shall report to
22 the Joint Standing Committee on Labor by November 15, 1998
regarding progress on collecting data on workplace exposures to
24 chemicals.

28 SUMMARY

30 This bill requires the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
Standards to collect and compile data regarding the level of
32 chemical exposures in industrial settings and various service
sector businesses. The bill also requires the Bureau of Labor
34 Standards to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor by
November 18, 1998 on the collection of these data.