

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 568

H.P. 418

House of Representatives, January 28, 1997

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study
Poverty Among Working Parents with Regard to Raising the Minimum
Wage.**

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 POVICH of Ellsworth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GAGNE of Buckfield, VOLENIK of Brooklin, Senator:
CATHCART of Penobscot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 305,
§1, is amended to read:

6 **1. Minimum wage.** The minimum hourly wage, beginning October
15, 1997, is \$4.25-per-hour .25¢ more than the highest federal
8 minimum wage. ~~If the highest federal minimum wage is increased~~
~~in excess of \$4.25 per hour, the minimum wage must be increased~~
10 ~~to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in~~
~~the federal minimum wage, but in no case may the minimum wage~~
12 ~~exceed \$5.15 per hour.~~ The minimum hourly wage established by
14 this section must be increased on April 1, 1998 and each April
1st thereafter by the percent increase, if any, in the state
average weekly wage for the preceding calendar year as determined
16 by the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation.

18 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill establishes a new state minimum wage consisting of
22 a base wage that is .25¢ per hour more than the federal minimum
24 wage. The bill also provides an annual adjustment based on the
increase in the state average weekly wage.