

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 648, L.D. 901, Bill, "An Act to Allow Persons 15 Years of Age or Older to Work at Games of Skill"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Allow Minors under 16 Years of Age to Work at Certain Commercial Places of Amusement'

Further amend the bill by inserting before the enacting clause the following:

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

Whereas, low rates of unemployment in southern Maine have caused a severe shortage of labor in recent tourist seasons that has made it difficult for tourist businesses to recruit workers; and

Whereas, the summer tourist season will begin within 30 days of adjournment; and

Whereas, if this legislation does not become effective until the normal effective date, a number of seasonal tourist businesses will not be able to benefit this year from the change in law this legislation would enact; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2           **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
 4 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
 6 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
 safety; now, therefore,'

8           Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and  
 inserting in its place the following:

10           '**Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §773, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 434,  
 12 §2, is further amended to read:

14           A minor under 16 years of age may not be employed, permitted  
 16 or suffered to work in, about or in connection with any  
 manufacturing or mechanical establishment, hotel, rooming house,  
 18 laundry, except those commonly known as automatic laundries, dry  
 cleaning establishments, bakery, bowling alley, poolroom,  
 20 commercial places of amusement, including traveling shows and  
 circuses, or in any theater or moving picture house or in  
 22 conjunction with an amusement, game or show that allows or  
conducts betting. The provisions of this section pertaining to  
 theaters do not apply to minors under 16 years of age who are  
 24 employed or in training as theatrical actors or film actors.

26           **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §773**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 434, §2, is  
 28 further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

30           Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, a minor  
under 16 years of age may be employed at a commercial place of  
amusement operating at a permanent location, except that minors  
 32 under 16 years of age may not be employed at games of chance as  
defined in Title 17, chapter 14 or hazardous occupations as  
 34 determined by the director.

36           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
 38 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.'

40           Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
 summary the following:

#### 42                                           **FISCAL NOTE**

44           The Department of Labor will incur some minor additional  
 46 costs to conduct the necessary inspections for compliance with  
 certain age-related employment requirements. These costs can be  
 48 absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

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2 The Judicial Department may realize some minor savings from  
3 reductions of workload and administrative costs associated with  
4 the minimal number of cases that will no longer be filed in the  
5 court system. Reductions in the collection of fines may decrease  
6 General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

8 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment replaces the bill. It allows minors under 16  
11 years of age to work in fixed-location commercial places of  
12 amusement, except they may not work at games of chance or in  
13 hazardous occupations. It prohibits minors under 16 from working  
14 in conjunction with an amusement, game or show that allows or  
15 conducts betting. Finally, it adds an emergency preamble,  
16 emergency clause and fiscal note to the bill.