# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

### **FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997**

Legislative Document

No. 1245

H.P. 902

House of Representatives, February 25, 1997

An Act to Revise the Confidentiality Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26.

Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204. Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HATCH of Skowhegan. Cosponsored by Representative SAMSON of Jay.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §3, as amended by PL 1987, c. 534, Pt. B, §§14 and 23, is further amended to read:

#### §3. Records confidential

All information and reports recorded by the director or his the director's authorized agents under this Title shall-be are confidential, and no names of individuals, firms or corporations may be used in any reports of the director nor made available for public inspection. The director may release information and reports to other government agencies if the director believes that the information will serve to further the protection of the public or assist in the enforcement of local, state and federal laws. The director may also release information and reports to the public pertaining to final bureau action taken under the authority of this Title. Records pertaining to the work force, employment patterns, wage rates, poverty and low-income patterns, economically distressed communities and regions and other similar information and data shall must be made available to the Department of Economic and Community Development and to the State Planning Office for the purposes of analysis and evaluation, measuring and monitoring poverty and economic and social the State conditions throughout and to promote economic development with the understanding that the confidentiality of the information will be maintained.

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### 30 SUMMARY

This bill allows the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards to share information with other government agencies to increase the protection of the public welfare and to ensure that bureau enforcement activities are coordinated across all branches of government. Appropriate safeguards remain in this law to fully address the appropriate confidentiality concerns of employers and employees.