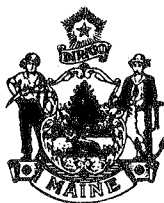


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1456

H.P. 1039

House of Representatives, March 11, 1997

An Act to Increase the Maximum Benefit Levels Provided for Injured Workers.

(EMERGENCY)

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 HATCH of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOLDUC of Auburn, CLARK of Millinocket, RINES of Wiscasset, Senator: CATHCART of Penobscot.

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

Whereas, this Act increases the maximum benefit levels provided in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 to more adequately replace lost wages; and

Whereas, the relief provided by this Act is urgently needed by the injured workers of this State before the expiration of the 90-day period; and

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

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

Sec. 1. 39-A MRSA §211, as amended by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. G, §22, is further amended to read:

§211. Maximum benefit levels

Effective January 1, 1993, the maximum weekly benefit payable under section 212, 213 or 215 is \$441 or 90% of state average weekly wage, whichever is higher. Beginning on July 1, 1994, the maximum benefit level is the higher of \$441 or 90% of the state average weekly wage as adjusted annually utilizing the state average weekly wage as determined by the Department of Labor. Beginning on July 1, 1997, the maximum benefit level is the higher of \$600 or 166% of the state average weekly wage as adjusted annually utilizing the state average weekly wage as determined by the Department of Labor.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect July 1, 1997.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the maximum weekly benefit level under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 to the higher of \$600 or 166% of the state average weekly wage as adjusted annually utilizing the state average weekly wage as determined by the Department of Labor.