

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1654

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1177, L.D. 1654, Bill, "An Act to Allow Agricultural Workers to Bargain Collectively"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§1322." in subsection 2 by inserting at the end the following: "Agricultural employee" includes supervisors but does not include any higher level managers or those employees whose duties necessarily imply a confidential relationship to the employer."

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§1322." in subsection 3 in the 8th line (page 2, line 11 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "employees" the following: ', as defined in subsection 2,'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "§1327." in subsection 5 in the 7th line (page 11, line 26 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "to the expiration date of the agreement" and inserting in its place the following: 'to either the expiration date of the agreement or its anniversary date if the agreement contains no expiration date'

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

FISCAL NOTE

The Maine Labor Relations Board within the Department of Labor will incur some minor additional costs to administer the right of agricultural workers to bargain collectively. These

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costs can be absorbed within the board's existing budgeted resources. The board may also incur some minor additional costs with a minor increase in dedicated revenue to fund these costs associated with an increase in the number of arbitration proceedings.

This bill may increase the number of civil suits filed in the court system. The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional filing fees may also increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

### SUMMARY

This amendment amends the definition of agricultural employee to include supervisors and exclude managers and confidential employees. The amendment also clarifies that only those employees within the definition of agricultural employee are counted to determine if an employer is subject to the Agricultural Employees Labor Relations Act by employing at least 75 employees for 180 days. The amendment clarifies that the period during which a party may question the unit or representation status relates to the anniversary date of the contract if the agreement contains no expiration date. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.