

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1997

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Legislative Document

No. 1956

S.P. 708

In Senate, December 29, 1997

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**An Act to Extend the Prevailing Wage Laws to the Maine Turnpike Authority.**

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 29, 1997. Referred to the Committee on Labor and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 308.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Senators: MILLS of Somerset, RAND of Cumberland, TREAT of Kennebec,  
Representative: HATCH of Skowhegan.

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1966, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1991, c. 435, §1, is further amended to read:

2. **Contracts for construction or reconstruction.** All contracts and agreements relating to the construction or reconstruction of the turnpike and the construction or reconstruction of connecting tunnels and bridges, overpasses, underpasses, interchanges and toll facilities must be approved by the Department of Transportation and the turnpike and connecting tunnels and bridges, overpasses, underpasses, interchanges and barriers must be constructed or reconstructed under the supervision of the department.

Contractors and subcontractors on all authority construction and reconstruction projects must be equal opportunity employers and, in connection with contracts in excess of \$250,000, also pursue in good faith affirmative action programs designed to remedy underrepresentation of minorities, women and persons with disabilities. The authority may by rule provide for the enforcement of this requirement. To the extent practical, the authority may use program and technical information developed by and available through the Department of Transportation to carry out this subsection.

All authority construction and reconstruction projects are governed by the prevailing wage provisions in Title 26, chapter 15.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1304, sub-§7, as repealed and replaced by PL 1967, c. 403, is amended to read:

7. **Public authority.** "Public authority" means any officer, board ~~or~~, commission or ~~other~~ agency of the State ~~of~~-Maine, that is authorized by law to enter into contracts for the construction of public works, and is supported in whole or in part by public funds of the State of Maine,--and--sections. Sections 1304 to 1313 shall apply to expenditures made in whole or in part from such public funds. "Public authority" includes the Maine Turnpike Authority.

## SUMMARY

This bill requires that all workers engaged in construction projects for the Maine Turnpike Authority be paid no less than the prevailing wage, which is determined by the hourly wage paid to the median number of workers employed in the construction industry on the 2nd and 3rd weeks in September of each year.