

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1016

H.P. 726

House of Representatives, February 9, 1999

**An Act to Require That a Translator Be Available to Employees In the
Workers' Compensation Process.**

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HATCH of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset and
Representatives: BRYANT of Dixfield, CLARK of Millinocket, COTE of Lewiston,
DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, GOODWIN of Pembroke, JABAR of Waterville, MATTHEWS
of Winslow, Senator: NUTTING of Androscoggin.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 39-A MRSA §329 is enacted to read:**

6 **§329. Interpreter required**

8 An employee whose native language is not English and who
10 does not understand the English language to the degree necessary
12 to reasonably understand and participate in proceedings that
14 affect the employee's rights is entitled to have an interpreter
16 present at all proceedings before the board or a hearing officer
relating to that employee's rights. The board shall provide and
pay the cost of the interpreter. To the extent possible, the
board shall use the services of interpreters employed by the
Department of Labor to meet the needs of employees in the
workers' compensation system.

18 **SUMMARY**

20
22 This bill provides that an employee who is not fluent in
24 English is entitled to have an interpreter present during
26 workers' compensation proceedings that affect the employee. The
Workers' Compensation Board would provide or pay the cost of the
interpreter and must share the services of interpreters in the
Department of Labor to the extent possible.