

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1463

H.P. 1041

House of Representatives, February 23, 1999

**An Act to Require the Department of Labor to Pay for Workers'  
Compensation Related Translation Services.**

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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 BRAGDON of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Senator MITCHELL of Penobscot and  
Representatives: GILLIS of Danforth, MENDROS of Lewiston, TREADWELL of Carmel.

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 impact the employee's rights is entitled to have an interpreter  
16 present at all proceedings before the board or a hearing officer  
18 relating to that employee's rights. The Department of Labor  
20 shall pay the cost of any interpreter required by this section.

16 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill provides that an employee who is not fluent in  
20 English is entitled to have an interpreter present during  
workers' compensation proceedings affecting the employee. The  
Department of Labor pays the cost of the interpreter.