

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 121

H.P. 117

House of Representatives, January 11, 2001

An Act Raising the Minimum Wage.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BRYANT of Dixfield.

Cosponsored by Representatives: MATTHEWS of Winslow, MAYO of Bath, Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and

Representatives: DUDLEY of Portland, JACOBS of Turner, LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford, PATRICK of Rumford, PINEAU of Jay, SIMPSON of Auburn, TWOMEY of Biddeford, Senator: LEMONT of York.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 305,
5 §1, is amended to read:

6 **1. Minimum wage.** The minimum hourly wage is ~~\$4.25~~ \$5.15 per
7 hour. Beginning January 1, 2002, the minimum wage is \$5.75 per
8 hour. Beginning January 1, 2003, the minimum wage is \$6.25 per
9 hour. Every 3rd January 1st thereafter, the minimum wage must be
10 increased by the cumulative percent increase, if any, in the
11 Consumer Price Index over the 3 previous Septembers. Any
12 increase must be rounded to the nearest 5¢. If the highest
13 federal minimum wage is increased in excess of ~~\$4.25-per-hour~~ the
14 minimum wage established by this subsection, the minimum wage
15 must be increased to the same amount, effective on the same date
16 as the increase in the federal minimum wage, ~~but in no case may~~
17 ~~the minimum wage exceed \$5.15 per hour.~~ In that case, the next
18 minimum wage increase based on the Consumer Price Index may not
19 occur until 3 years after the January 1st following the date the
20 minimum wage was increased to match the federal minimum wage.

21 **Sec. 2. Referendum for ratification; submission at statewide election;**
22 **form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the
23 legal voters of the State of Maine at a statewide election held
24 on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November following
25 passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall
26 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and
27 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding
28 a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of
29 this Act by voting on the following question:
30

31 "Do you favor raising the minimum wage to \$5.75 per hour in
32 2002 and \$6.25 per hour in 2003 and adjusting it every 3
33 years thereafter by any increase in the Consumer Price
34 Index?"

35
36 The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall
37 vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice
38 by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square
39 below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received,
40 sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation
41 meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same
42 manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor
43 shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of
44 the legal votes are cast in favor of the Act, the Governor shall
45 proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act takes effect 30
46 days after the date of the proclamation.
47
48

2 The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each
city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this
4 Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill raises the minimum wage to \$5.75 per hour starting
January 1, 2002 and \$6.25 per hour starting January 1, 2003.
10 Every 3rd January 1st thereafter, the minimum wage must be
increased by the cumulative percent increase, if any, in the
12 Consumer Price Index over the 3 previous Septembers. The bill
includes a referendum provision.