

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1013

H.P. 734

House of Representatives, February 25, 2003

An Act To Address Maine's Direct Care Worker Shortage

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative EDER of Portland.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3305, sub-§1, ¶N**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. B, §4, is further amended to read:

6 N. Coordinate the development of solid waste management policy including:

8 (1) Collecting and analyzing solid waste management and recycling data from all available sources including commercial and municipal entities;

10 (2) Preparing a solid waste management and recycling plan to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 1998 and every 5 years thereafter; and

12 (3) Providing technical and financial assistance to municipalities in waste reduction and recycling activities; and

14
16
18 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §3305, sub-§1, ¶O**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 625, Pt. A, §10, is amended to read:

20
22 O. Own, design, develop or operate, or contract with private parties to operate, a solid waste disposal facility, as provided in Title 38, chapter 24, subchapter IV, 4; and

24
26 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §3305, sub-§1, ¶P** is enacted to read:

28 P. Report annually to the Legislature on the subject of poverty in the State.

30 (1) The report must include information on poverty among children and adults, regional differences in poverty rates and indicators, conditions responsible for changes from the prior year, expectations for the coming year and the economic condition of the State's communities.

32 (2) The report must include an annual basic needs budget for households of different sizes and compositions, developed in cooperation with the Department of Human Services, including the following expenditure categories: housing, transportation, child care, health care insurance and out-of-pocket health care expenses, clothing, food, personal care and recreation. This annual basic needs budget must include a brief description of the expense assumptions used for each of the expenditure categories and a

2 calculation of the annual, monthly, weekly and hourly
3 income needed to meet this basic needs budget.

4 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §1718** is enacted to read:

6 **§1718. Livable wage**

8 The payment of a livable wage to health care workers is
9 governed by this section.

10 1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the
11 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
12 following meanings.

13 A. "Employ" has the same meaning as in Title 26, section
14 663, subsection 2.

15 B. "Employee" has the same meaning as in Title 26, section
16 663, subsection 3.

17 C. "Health care" has the same meaning as in section 1711-C,
18 subsection 1, paragraph C.

19 D. "Health care facility" has the same meaning as in
20 section 1711-C, subsection 1, paragraph D.

21 E. "Health care practitioner" has the same meaning as in
22 section 1711-C, subsection 1, paragraph F.

23 F. "Livable wage" means the wage, stated as hourly income,
24 necessary for an employee to earn the income necessary for
25 financial independence of the employee's household unit, as
26 determined pursuant to subsection 3.

27 2. Livable wage requirement. Beginning January 1, 2004, a
28 health care facility or health care practitioner that receives
29 state funds for the provision of health care to patients and that
30 employs an employee in the provision of health care to patients
31 shall pay to the employee a livable wage.

32 3. Calculation of livable wage. The Executive Department,
33 State Planning Office shall calculate and publish a listing by
34 county of a livable wage for an employee living in that county.
35 The calculation must be based on the basic needs budget prepared
36 pursuant to Title 5, section 3305, subsection 1, paragraph P and
37 must state the livable wage for financial independence for
38 household units of different size.

39 **Sec. 5. Resolve 1997, c. 36**, as amended by Resolve 1999, c. 62,
40 §§1 and 2, is repealed.

SUMMARY

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4 This bill requires health care facilities and health care
practitioners that receive state funding for the provision of
6 health care to patients to pay to their employees a livable wage
beginning January 1, 2004. This bill repeals provisions of
8 Resolve 1997, chapter 36 that require the State Planning Office
to submit an annual report to the Legislature on a basic needs
budget and reenacts those provisions in the Maine Revised
10 Statutes, Title 5. The bill requires the State Planning Office
to calculate a livable wage based on the basic needs budget.