

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 445

S.P. 143

In Senate, January 27, 2005

**An Act To Index the Minimum Wage for Inflation and To Permit a
Training Wage for Workers under 17 Years of Age**

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§§5 and 6** are enacted to read:

6 5. Indexing of minimum wage. Beginning in 2006, and every
3 years thereafter, the minimum wage described in subsection 1 is
subject to a rate of adjustment pursuant to this subsection.

8
10 A. Beginning April 1, 2006 and every 3rd April 1st after
12 that, the Commissioner of Labor shall calculate the adjusted
14 minimum hourly wage by multiplying the minimum hourly wage
16 in effect on the calculation date by an inflation index as
18 computed in paragraph B. The adjusted minimum hourly wage
must then be rounded to the nearest 5¢ and become effective
on the first day of October immediately following the
calculation. The commissioner shall publish the adjusted
minimum hourly wage and shall provide all necessary forms
and posters to employers in this State.

20 B. The inflation index is the sum of the Consumer Price
22 Index, as defined in Title 36, section 5402, subsection 1,
24 for the 3 calendar years ending on the December 31st
immediately preceding the calculation date, divided by 3.
The result of that calculation is divided by the Consumer
Price Index for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2005.

26
28 6. Training wage. Notwithstanding the requirements of
subsection 1, for employees who have not attained 17 years of
age, the minimum hourly wage is the federal minimum wage.

30
32 **Sec. 2. Regulation of employment poster.** The Department of Labor
shall include notice of the change in the minimum wage and the
establishment of a training wage in the department's next
34 reprinting of the regulation of employment poster.

36
38 **SUMMARY**

40 This bill indexes the hourly minimum wage to the rate of
inflation. The hourly minimum wage, currently scheduled to
42 increase from \$6.35 per hour to \$6.50 per hour beginning October
1, 2005, would be adjusted every 3 years, beginning October 1,
2006, to reflect the rate of inflation for the previous 3 years.

44
46 This bill also establishes a training wage, which is a
minimum wage for employees under 17 years of age. The training
48 wage is the federal minimum wage, which is currently \$5.15 per
hour.