

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 2023

H.P. 1424

House of Representatives, February 23, 2006

**An Act To Implement Recommendations of the Study Commission
Regarding Liveable Wages Concerning the Definition of a Liveable
Wage**

Reported by Representative LERMAN of Augusta for the Study Commission Regarding Liveable Wages pursuant to Resolve 2005, chapter 128.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed under Joint Rule 218.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

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

4 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1-A is enacted to read:**

6 **§1-A. Liveable wage defined**

8 As used in this Title, unless the context otherwise
10 indicates, "liveable wage" means the statewide average liveable
12 wage for a single-parent, one-child household as reported by the
14 Department of Labor in the most recent annual report required
16 pursuant to section 1405.

18 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1405 is enacted to read:**

20 **§1405. Liveable wage: calculation**

22 **1. Calculation.** By December 31, 2006 and annually
24 thereafter, the department shall calculate liveable wages for
26 households in the State's counties and metropolitan statistical
28 areas by family size and as statewide averages by developing an
30 annual basic needs budget for the following family sizes:

32 A. Single person;

34 B. Single parent and one child;

36 C. Single parent and 2 children;

38 D. Two parents, with one earner and 2 children; and

40 E. Two parents, with 2 earners and 2 children.

42 By January 30, 2007 and annually thereafter, the department shall
44 report the liveable wages calculated pursuant to this subsection
46 to the Legislature.

48 **Sec. 3. Liveable wage calculation.** In calculating the liveable wages pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1405, the Department of Labor shall use the methodology set forth by the Maine Center for Economic Policy in the report entitled "Getting By: Maine Livable Wages in 2004."

SUMMARY

This bill is a recommendation of the Study Commission Regarding Liveable Wages. The bill directs the Department of Labor to annually calculate the liveable wage for various

2 household sizes using the methodology used by the Maine Center for Economic Policy and to report the liveable wage calculations to the Legislature. The bill also defines "liveable wage."