

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1355

S.P. 469

March 13, 2007

An Act Regarding the Calculation of the Livable Wage

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 DOW of Lincoln.

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

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

3 **§1-A. Livable wage defined**

4 As used in this Title, unless the context otherwise indicates, "livable wage" means the
5 statewide average livable wage for a 2-parent household with 2 earners and 2 children as
6 reported by the Department of Labor in the most recent annual report required pursuant to
7 section 1405.

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

9 **§1405. Livable wage; calculation**

10 **1. Calculation.** By December 31, 2007 and annually thereafter, the department shall
11 calculate livable wages for households in the State's counties and metropolitan statistical
12 areas by family size and as statewide averages by developing an annual basic needs
13 budget for the following family sizes:

14 A. Single person;

15 B. Single parent and one child;

16 C. Single parent and 2 children;

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

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

19 By January 30, 2008 and annually thereafter, the department shall report the livable
20 wages calculated pursuant to this subsection to the Legislature.

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

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill directs the Department of Labor to annually calculate the livable wage for
27 various household sizes using the methodology used by the Maine Center for Economic
28 Policy and to report the livable wage calculations to the Legislature. The bill also defines
29 "livable wage." The bill is based on the work of the Study Commission Regarding
30 Livable Wages established pursuant to Resolve 2005, chapter 128.