

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1809

H.P. 1261

House of Representatives, March 30, 2007

### **An Act To Base Minimum Wage Increases on the Consumer Price Index**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative TUTTLE of Sanford.  
Cosponsored by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BURNS of Berwick, CLARK of Millinocket, Speaker CUMMINGS of  
Portland, DRISCOLL of Westbrook, HASKELL of Portland, JACKSON of Allagash,  
PINGREE of North Haven, Senator: SULLIVAN of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 578, §1, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Minimum wage.** The minimum hourly wage is \$6.50 per hour. Starting October  
5 1, 2006, the minimum hourly wage is \$6.75 per hour. Starting October 1, 2007, the  
6 minimum hourly wage is \$7.00 per hour. Starting July 1, 2009 and every July 1st  
7 thereafter, the Commissioner of Labor shall adjust the minimum hourly wage by any  
8 positive percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from January 1st to December  
9 31st of the previous year. For purposes of this subsection, "Consumer Price Index"  
10 means the average over a 12-month period of the National Consumer Price Index, not  
11 seasonally adjusted, published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States  
12 Department of Labor designated as the "National Consumer Price Index for All Urban  
13 Consumers-United States City Average." If the highest federal minimum wage is  
14 increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this section, the minimum wage  
15 under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the  
16 increase in the federal minimum wage, but in no case may the minimum wage exceed the  
17 minimum wage otherwise in effect under this section by more than \$1 per hour.

18 **Sec. 2. Reprinting of notice.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
19 26, section 42-B, the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards is not required to  
20 modify and redistribute the printed notice required by that section to reflect the changes  
21 in the law resulting from this Act. The Bureau of Labor Standards shall modify the  
22 printed notice to reflect the changes contained in this Act when it becomes necessary to  
23 print additional notices due to an insufficient supply of such notices or due to future  
24 changes in law.

25 **Sec. 3. Statutory referendum procedure; submission at statewide**  
26 **election; form of question; effective date.** This Act must be submitted to the legal  
27 voters of the State at a statewide election held in November 2008. The municipal officers  
28 of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to  
29 meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the  
30 acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

31 "Do you favor basing increases in the minimum wage on increases in the  
32 Consumer Price Index?"

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

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

4

#### **SUMMARY**

5       This bill provides that, starting July 1, 2009 and every July 1st thereafter, the  
6 Commissioner of Labor shall adjust the minimum hourly wage by any positive  
7 percentage change in the Consumer Price Index in the previous year. The changes in the  
8 bill are contingent upon approval by the voters at referendum in November 2008.