

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 869

H.P. 600

House of Representatives, March 5, 2009

**An Act To Require the Development of Plans To Achieve the
Payment of Livable Wages by State and Local Government
Employers**

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BUTTERFIELD of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, CAIN of Orono.

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

2 Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1-A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 363, §1, is amended 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~~ single-parent, one-child household with ~~2~~
6 ~~earners and 2 children~~ as reported by the Department of Labor in the most recent annual
7 report required pursuant to section 1405 except that, when applied to municipalities,
8 school administrative units and any other local political subdivision, "livable wage"
9 means the livable wage for a single-parent, one-child household as reported in the most
10 recent annual report required pursuant to section 1405 for the county or metropolitan
11 statistical area in which the municipality, school administrative unit or other local
12 political subdivision is located and, when applied to counties, "livable wage" means the
13 livable wage for a single-parent, one-child household as reported for that county.

14 Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §10 is enacted to read:

15 **§10. Measurement of costs to workers paid less than a livable wage; measurement**
16 **of bureaucratic costs to subsidize workers paid less than a livable wage;**
17 **development of livable wage plans**

18 **1. Measurement of costs to workers paid less than a livable wage.** By December
19 31, 2009 and annually thereafter, the State, the University of Maine System, the Maine
20 Community College System and all municipalities, counties and school administrative
21 units shall each submit a report to the Department of Labor for the preceding calendar
22 year for the purpose of determining the extent to which the State, political subdivisions of
23 the State and independent public agencies pay workers livable wage rates. The report
24 from each entity must identify all workers who were not paid at least a livable wage rate
25 during the preceding year, the total wages paid to each worker, the total wages that would
26 have been paid to these workers for the same number of hours of work if the workers had
27 been paid at least a livable wage as calculated pursuant to section 1405 and the difference
28 between actual wages and livable wages.

29 By January 30th of each year, the Department of Labor shall compile and summarize the
30 reports that are required pursuant to this subsection and report to the Legislature on the
31 total difference between the livable wage standard and any actual wages paid to workers
32 by state and local public employers that are below the livable wage.

33 **2. Measurement of bureaucratic costs to subsidize workers paid less than a**
34 **livable wage.** By December 31, 2009 and annually thereafter, the Department of Labor
35 shall produce a report that quantifies and summarizes data gathered and analyzed from all
36 federal, state and local public social service agencies and offices to determine the costs of
37 providing direct services to all workers employed by state and local public employers
38 who are paid less than a livable wage, as calculated pursuant to section 1405.

