

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1004

H.P. 705

House of Representatives, March 14, 2017

An Act To Increase Fines for Certain Wage and Benefits Violations

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, COLLINGS of Portland, GRANT of Gardiner,
MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MELARAGNO of Auburn, SYLVESTER of Portland, TIPPING
of Orono, Senator: BELLOWS of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §626-A, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 465, §5, is further
3 amended to read:

4 Whoever violates any of the provisions of sections 621-A to 623 or section 626, 628,
5 629 or 629-B is subject to a ~~forfeiture fine of not less than \$100 nor more than~~ \$500 for
6 each the first violation and \$2,500 for each subsequent violation. A civil action may be
7 brought against an employer under this chapter by any person aggrieved by a violation of
8 sections 621-A to 623 or section 626, 628, 629 or 629-B. If the court finds that the
9 employer violated sections 621-A to 623 or section 626, 628, 629 or 629-B, it may award
10 damages, including attorney's fees.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill amends the law regarding employment practices by increasing the fine for a
13 violation of certain state wage and benefits laws to \$500 for the first violation and \$2,500
14 for each subsequent violation and by providing a private right of action for a person
15 aggrieved of such a violation.