

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION-2018

Legislative Document

No. 1913

S.P. 749

In Senate, June 20, 2018

**An Act To Slow the Rate at Which the State's Minimum Wage
Increases and To Eliminate Cost-of-living Increases to the Minimum
Wage**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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 IB 2015, c. 2, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Minimum wage.** The minimum hourly wage is ~~\$7.50 per hour. Starting January~~
5 ~~1, 2017, the minimum hourly wage is \$9.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2018, the~~
6 ~~minimum hourly wage is \$10.00 per hour; starting~~ Starting January 1, 2019 ~~2020~~, the
7 minimum hourly wage is ~~\$11.00~~ \$10.50 per hour; ~~and starting January 1, 2020~~ 2021, the
8 minimum hourly wage is ~~\$12.00~~ \$11.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2022, the minimum
9 hourly wage is \$11.50 per hour; and starting January 1, 2023, the minimum hourly wage
10 is \$12.00 per hour. ~~On January 1, 2021 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum~~
11 ~~hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living.~~
12 ~~The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as~~
13 ~~of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year~~
14 ~~in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for~~
15 ~~the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States~~
16 ~~Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount~~
17 ~~of the minimum wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest~~
18 ~~federal minimum wage is increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this~~
19 ~~section, the minimum wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective~~
20 ~~on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum wage, and must be increased in~~
21 ~~accordance with this section thereafter.~~

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill:

24 1. Slows the rate at which the State's minimum wage increases by starting with
25 \$10.50 per hour on January 1, 2020 and increasing it by 50¢ per hour each year until it
26 reaches \$12.00 per hour on January 1, 2023; and

27 2. Eliminates the requirement that the minimum wage increase each year by the
28 percentage increase in the cost of living.