MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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2 Date: 6/17/21

(Filing No. S-347)

MAJORITY

3 ## LABOR AND HOUSING

4 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

5 ## STATE OF MAINE

6 ## SENATE

7 ## 130TH LEGISLATURE

8 ## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " *A* " to S.P. 525, L.D. 1711, "An Act To Enhance
10 Enforcement of Employment Laws"

11 Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

12 '**Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
13 allocations are made.

14 **LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

15 **Community Outreach and Labor Education Fund N392**

16 Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures to assist workers in enforcing
17 employment rights, including outreach, community-based education events, training
18 materials, technical assistance, counseling and investigative research and referral services.

19 **OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**	2021-22	2022-23
20 All Other	$500	$500
21		
22 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	$500	$500

23 '

24 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
25 number to read consecutively.

26 ## SUMMARY

27 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, adds an appropriations
28 and allocations section.

29 ## FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
30 **(See attached)**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1711   LR 835(02)

An Act To Enhance Enforcement of Employment Laws

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-347)
Committee: Labor and Housing
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	$500	$500	$500	$500

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

This bill may increase the number of civil suits filed in the court system.

The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not requ
additional funding at this time.

The collection of additional filing fees may increase General Fund and other dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation allows a whistleblower that is alleging a violation of certain labor laws to bring a private enforcement action on behalf of the State and in the name of the State after providing notice to the Attorney General, the Department of Labor or the Maine Human Rights Commission, depending on the law that has been potentially violated. Each agency has a choice as to whether or not to intervene. If it chooses not to intervene, the whistleblower may proceed with the private enforcement action.

Both the Bureau of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor and the Maine Human Rights Commission have indicated that to meet the anticipated increased workload consistent with their stautory obligations, additional staff would be required. However, as the bill allows each agency to decide on a level of involvement on a case by case basis, no additional positions are included in this bill. The Office of the Attorney General has indicated it can comply with the requirements of this bill within existing budgeted resources.

This bill establishes the Community Outreach and Labor Education Fund within the Department of Labor as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund to assist workers in enforcing employment rights, including outreach, community-based education events, training materials, technical assistance, counseling and investigative, research and referral services. Base allocations of $500 per year beginning in fiscal year 2021-22 will be required to authorize expenditures from the fund in the event revenue is received from a portion of civil penalties assessed.