

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1376

H.P. 890

House of Representatives, March 28, 2023

An Act to Create a Livable Wage by Increasing the Minimum Hourly Wage

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.

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 January 1, 2019, the minimum hourly
7 wage is \$11.00 per hour; ~~and~~ starting January 1, 2020, the minimum hourly wage is \$12.00
8 per hour; and starting January 1, 2024, the minimum hourly wage is \$15.00 per hour. On
9 January 1, 2025 and each January 1st thereafter to January 1, 2033, the minimum hourly
10 wage then in effect is increased by \$1.00 per hour or by the increase in the cost of living,
11 whichever is greater. On January 1, ~~2021~~ 2034 and each January 1st thereafter, the
12 minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost
13 of living. The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase,
14 if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding
15 that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-
16 W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States
17 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount
18 of the minimum wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal
19 minimum wage is increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this section,
20 the minimum wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the
21 same date as the increase in the federal minimum wage, and must be increased in
22 accordance with this section thereafter.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill increases the minimum hourly wage to \$15 per hour starting January 1, 2024.
25 Beginning January 1, 2025 to and including January 1, 2033, the minimum hourly wage is
26 increased by \$1 per hour or by the increase in the cost of living, whichever is greater. On
27 January 1, 2034 and every year thereafter, the minimum wage increases by the increase, if
28 any, in the cost of living.