

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2273

Date: 4/3/24

(Filing No. H-923)

Minority
LABOR AND HOUSING

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1462, L.D. 2273, "An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers"

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 2-B by striking out all of §652 (page 1, lines 22 to 37 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

§652. Minimum hourly wage

An employer may not employ an employee at a rate less than the rates required by this section.

1. Minimum hourly wage for an employee not paid by piece rate. Beginning September 1, 2024, the minimum hourly wage for an employee not paid by piece rate is \$14.15 per hour. On January 1, 2025 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum hourly wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal minimum hourly wage is increased in excess of the minimum hourly wage in effect under this section, the minimum hourly wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum hourly wage, and must be increased in accordance with this section thereafter.

2. Minimum hourly wage for an employee paid by piece rate. Beginning September 1, 2024, the minimum hourly wage for an employee paid by piece rate is \$10 per hour.

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 2-B in §653 in the first indented paragraph in the last 3 lines (page 2, lines 12 to 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "All information received is considered confidential and may not be divulged to any other person or agency, except as may be necessary for the enforcement of this subchapter."

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1462, L.D. 2273

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

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, provides that an
5 individual employed to perform agricultural labor that is paid by piece rate may not be paid
6 at a minimum hourly rate of less than \$10 per hour. It also makes a technical correction.

7 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

8 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2273

LR 3129(03)

An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-923)
Committee: Labor and Housing
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund
Minor revenue increase - General Fund
Minor revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

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 does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional fines and filing fees will increase General Fund or other dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Labor associated with enforcement of the minimum wage requirement for agricultural employees can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.