

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 144

S. P. 367

In Senate, Feb. 25, 1927.

Referred to Committee on Labor and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Smith of Somerset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Relating to the Employment of Children.

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

Section twenty of chapter forty-nine of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter one hundred ninety of the public laws of nineteen hundred nineteen, is hereby further amended by adding at the end thereof the words 'except as hereinafter provided,' so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

'Sect. 20. No child under fourteen years of age shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work in, about, or in connection with any manufacturing or mechanical establishment. No child under fifteen years of age shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work at any business or

6 service for hire, whatever, during the hours that the public
7 schools of the town or city in which he resides are in ses-
8 sion, except as hereinafter provided.'

Section twenty-one of chapter forty-nine of the revised
2 statutes, as amended by chapter one hundred forty-six of
3 the public laws of nineteen hundred seventeen, as amended
4 by the public laws of nineteen hundred nineteen, is hereby
5 further amended by inserting in the thirty-sixth line thereof
6 after the word "do" the following: 'A child between the
7 ages of fourteen and sixteen who, because of sub-normal
8 mental capacity, is unable to successfully pass the tests nec-
9 essary to allow a regular work permit to be issued, may un-
10 der conditions deemed proper receive a work permit issued
11 jointly by the commissioner of education and the commis-
12 sioner of labor, such persons to be employed in non-hazard-
13 ous occupations,' so that said section, as amended, shall read
14 as follows:

'Sect. 21. No minor between the ages of fourteen and
2 sixteen years shall be employed, permitted or suffered to
3 work in any of the aforementioned occupations unless the
4 person, firm or corporation employing such child procures
5 and keeps on file accessible to any truant officer, factory
6 inspector or other authorized officer charged with the en-
7 forcement of sections twenty to thirty-one, both inclusive,
8 of this chapter, a work permit issued to said child by the
9 superintendent of schools of the city or town in which the
10 child resides, or by some person authorized by him in writ-

11 ing. The person authorized to issue a work permit shall
12 not issue such permit until such child has furnished such
13 issuing officer a certificate signed by the principal of the
14 school last attended showing that the child can read and
15 write correctly simple sentences in the English language and
16 that he has satisfactorily completed the studies covered in
17 the first eight yearly grades of the elementary public schools,
18 or their equivalent; in case such certificate cannot be ob-
19 tained, then the officer issuing the work permit shall ex-
20 amine such child to determine whether he can meet the edu-
21 cational standard specified and shall file in his office a state-
22 ment setting forth the result of such examination; nor un-
23 til he has received, examined, approved and filed satisfac-
24 tory evidence of age showing that the child is fourteen years
25 old or upwards; such evidence shall consist of a certified
26 copy of the town clerk's record of the birth of said child,
27 or a certified copy of his baptismal record, showing the date
28 of his birth and place of baptism, or a passport showing the
29 date of birth. In the event of the minor being unable to
30 produce the evidence heretofore mentioned, and the person
31 authorized to issue the work permit being satisfied of that
32 fact, the said work permit may be issued on other docu-
33 mentary evidence of age satisfactory to the person author-
34 ized to issue the work permit, provided said documentary
35 evidence has been approved by the state commissioner of
36 labor. The superintendent of schools, or the person author-
37 ized to issue such work permit may require, in doubtful

38 cases, a certificate signed by a physician appointed by the
39 school board, or, in case there is no school physician, from
40 the medical officer of the board of health, stating that such
41 child has been examined by him, and, in his opinion, has
42 reached the normal development of a child of its age, and
43 is in sufficiently sound health and physically able to per-
44 form the work which he intends to do. A child between
45 the ages of fourteen and sixteen who, because of sub-normal
46 mental capacity, is unable to successfully pass the tests nec-
47 essary to allow a regular work permit to be issued, may
48 under conditions deemed proper receive a work permit is-
49 sued jointly by the commissioner of education and the com-
50 missioner of labor, such persons to be employed in non-
51 hazardous occupations. The state factory inspector, his
52 deputy or agent, may require a similar certificate in doubt-
53 ful cases of the minors employed under a work permit. A
54 work permit when duly issued shall excuse such child from
55 attendance at public schools; but no person shall issue such
56 permit to any minor then in or about to enter his employ-
57 ment or the employment of the firm or corporation of which
58 he is a member, stockholder, officer or employee.'