

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 603

H. P. 1568 House of Representatives, March 1, 1929.

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

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jones of Winthrop.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relative to the Hours of Employment of Women.

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

Section 1. Section four of chapter three hundred fifty
2 of the public laws of nineteen hundred fifteen is hereby
3 amended by adding at the end thereof the following: 'but
4 this shall not apply to any telephone exchange where the
5 operator during the night is not required to operate at the
6 switchboard continuously but is able to sleep the major
7 part of the night,' so that said section as amended shall
8 read as follows:

'Sect. 4. No female shall, except in cases of emergency
2 or extraordinary public requirement as provided in section

3 three of this act, be employed or permitted to work for
4 more than six hours continuously at one time in any estab-
5 lishment or occupation named in sections one and three of
6 this act in which three or more such females are employed
7 without an interval of at least one hour; except that such
8 female may be so employed for not more than six and one-
9 half hours continuously at one time if such employment
10 ends not later than half-past one o'clock in the afternoon
11 and if she is then dismissed for the remainder of the day,
12 but this shall not apply to any telephone exchange where
13 the operator during the night is not required to operate at
14 the switchboard continuously but is able to sleep the major
15 part of the night.'

Sect. 2. Section five of chapter three hundred fifty of
2 the public laws of nineteen hundred fifteen is hereby amend-
3 ed by adding in the fourth line after the word "employed"
4 the words 'except in any telephone exchange employing
5 less than five female operators,' so that said section as
6 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 5. Every employer except those hereinafter desig-
2 nated, shall post and keep posted in a conspicuous place in
3 every room in any establishment or place of occupation
4 named in sections one and three of this act in which fe-
5 males or male minors under sixteen years of age are em-
6 ployed, except in any telephone exchange employing less
7 than five female operators, a printed notice stating the
8 number of hours such females or male minors are required
9 or permitted to work on each day of the week, the hours of

10 beginning and ending, and the recess allowed for meals;
11 provided, however, that every employer engaged in fur-
12 nishing public service or in any other kind of business in
13 respect to which the state department of labor and indus-
14 try shall find that public necessity or convenience requires
15 the employment of women or male minors as aforesaid by
16 shifts during different periods or parts of the day shall post
17 in a conspicuous place in every room in which such per-
18 sons are employed, a printed notice stating separately the
19 hours of employment for each shift or tour of duty, and
20 the amount of time allowed for meals. The printed form
21 of such notice shall be furnished by the commissioner of
22 labor and industry and state factory inspector.

The employment of any such female or male minor for
2 a longer time in any day than that stated in the printed
3 notice, or, in case the hours named in such notice are less
4 than as provided in sections one and three of this act, the
5 employment of any such female or male minor for a longer
6 time in any day than as provided in sections one and three
7 of this act, shall be deemed a violation of the provisions
8 of this section except in cases of emergency or extra-
9 ordinary public requirement as provided in section three
10 of this act, and in such cases no employment in excess of
11 the hours authorized under the provisions of this act shall
12 be considered as legalized until a written report of the day
13 and hour of its occurrence and its duration is sent to the
14 commissioner of labor and industry and state factory in-
15 spector. Whenever the nature of the business makes it

16 impracticable to fix the recess allowed for meals at the
17 same time for all females or male minors employed, the
18 commissioner of labor and industry and state factory in-
19 spector may issue a permit dispensing with the posting of
20 the hours when the recess allowed for meals begins and
21 ends, and requiring only the posting of the total number
22 of hours which females or male minors are required or
23 permitted to work on each day of the week, and the hours
24 of beginning and stopping such work. Such permit shall
25 be kept by such employer upon such premises, and exhibit-
26 ed to the commissioner of labor and industry and state fac-
27 tory inspector, his deputy, or any authorized agent of the
28 labor department, who is hereby authorized to enforce this
29 act.'