

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 529

H. P. 963

House of Representatives, February 8, 1945.

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

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Brown of Brunswick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Employment of Children.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 25, § 17, amended. Section 17 of chapter 25 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 17. Employment of children under certain ages, prohibited; exceptions. No child under ~~14~~ 15 years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in, about, or in connection with any manufacturing or mechanical establishment, **laundry, bakery**, bowling-alley, or pool-room. Except as hereinafter provided, no child under 15 years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work at any business or service for hire, whatever, during the hours that the public schools of the town or city in which he resides are in session. No minor under 16 years of age shall be employed in any theater or moving picture house as usher or attendant, nor in or about a projection booth.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 25, § 18, amended. Section 18 of chapter 25 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 18. Regulations for employment of minors between the ages of 15 and 16 years; issuance of work permits. No minor between the ages of ~~14~~ 15 and 16 years shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in

any of the aforementioned occupations unless the person, firm, or corporation employing such child procures and keeps on file accessible to any attendance officer, factory inspector, or other authorized officer charged with the enforcement of sections 17 to 35, inclusive, a work permit issued to such child by the superintendent of schools of the city or town in which the child resides, or by some person authorized by him in writing. The person authorized to issue a work permit shall not issue such permit until such child has furnished such issuing officer a certificate signed by the principal of the school last attended showing that the child can read and write correctly simple sentences in the English language and that he has satisfactorily completed the studies covered in the grades of the elementary public schools, or their equivalent; in case such certificate cannot be obtained, then the officer issuing the work permit shall examine such child to determine whether he can meet the educational standard specified and shall file in his office a statement setting forth the result of such examination; nor until he has received, examined, approved, and filed satisfactory evidence of age showing that the child is ~~at~~ 15 years old or upwards; such evidence shall consist of a certified copy of the town clerk's record of the birth of such child, or a certified copy of his baptismal record, showing the date of his birth and place of baptism, or a passport showing the date of birth. In the event of the minor being unable to produce the evidence heretofore mentioned, and the person authorized to issue the work permit being satisfied of that fact, the said work permit may be issued on other documentary evidence of age satisfactory to the person authorized to issue the work permit, provided such documentary evidence has been approved by the commissioner. The superintendent of schools, or the person authorized to issue such work permit may require, in doubtful cases, a certificate signed by a physician appointed by the school board, stating that such child has been examined by him, and, in his opinion, has reached the normal development of a child of its age, and is in sufficiently sound health and physically able to perform the work which he intends to do. A child between the ages of ~~at~~ 15 and 16 years who, because of subnormal mental capacity, is unable to successfully pass the tests necessary to allow a regular work permit to be issued, may under conditions deemed proper receive a work permit issued jointly by the commissioner of education and the commissioner of labor and industry, such persons to be employed in non-hazardous occupations. The state factory inspector, his deputy, or agent, may require a similar certificate in doubtful cases of the minors employed under a work permit. A work permit when duly issued shall excuse such child from attendance at public schools; but no person shall issue such permit to any minor then in or about to enter his employment or the em-

ployment of the firm or corporation of which he is a member, stockholder, officer, or employee.'