

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NINETY - SECOND L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 608

H. P. 964

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. Ross of Brownville Junction.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Employment of Children Under Certain Ages.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the people of the state of Maine, in chapter 37 of the revised statutes, have directed and made it possible for children to attend school; and

Whereas, there is grave danger that many of our youth, because of long hours of out-of-school employment, are physically and mentally unfit to benefit from the educational opportunities provided for them, thereby defeating the purposes for which schools are maintained; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

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 years of age shall be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in, about, or in connection with any manufacturing or

mechanical establishment, 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. **Except as hereinafter provided, no child of compulsory school age as defined in section 83 of chapter 37 shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work at any business or service for hire, whatever, during the hours scheduled for sessions of his school. To protect children, required by law to attend school, from employment dangerous or prejudicial to their education, health, safety, and welfare, it is further enacted that no child of compulsory school age shall be permitted to work for hire at occupations other than domestic service or farm labor:**

I. For more than 4 out-of-school hours on regularly scheduled school days;

II. Between the hours of 8:30 P. M. and 6:00 A. M. during calendar weeks when schools are in session;

III. For more than 9 hours in any one day of a calendar week when sessions of school are held during said week;

IV. For more than 28 hours in any one calendar week which has been scheduled to include 5 days of school—for each day less than 5, 8 hours may be added to this maximum;

V. When at the request of the superintending school committee the child is unable to secure evidence of physical fitness from a competent physician for the occupation or working hours contemplated. •

Every person who regularly employs children of compulsory school age during out-of-school hours, except vacations, shall keep posted in a conspicuous place the names, ages, addresses and working hours required of them.

Any person, firm, corporation or agent thereof who shall employ a child of compulsory school age in violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100 for each offense.

In the interest of the well-being of the people of the state of Maine, the governor may temporarily extend these regulations in an area where an emergency exists.'

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.