



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 670

H.P. 491

House of Representatives, February 7, 2019

An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage for Large Employers

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CHENETTE of York and
Representatives: BABINE of Scarborough, BRYANT of Windham, CROCKETT of Portland,
DUNPHY of Old Town, HANDY of Lewiston, SYLVESTER of Portland, TERRY of Gorham,
Senator: LAWRENCE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§1**, as amended by IB 2015, c. 2, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Minimum wage.** The minimum hourly wage is \$7.50 per hour. Starting January
5 1, 2017, the minimum hourly wage is \$9.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2018, the
6 minimum hourly wage is \$10.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2019, the minimum hourly
7 wage is \$11.00 per hour; and starting January 1, 2020, the minimum hourly wage is
8 \$12.00 per hour. On January 1, 2021 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum
9 hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living
10 except that for an employee whose employer employs 50 or more full-time employees,
11 the minimum hourly wage is \$13.00 starting January 1, 2021, the minimum hourly wage
12 is \$14.00 starting January 1, 2022 and the minimum hourly wage is \$15.00 starting
13 January 1, 2023. On January 1, 2024 and each January 1st thereafter, for an employee
14 whose employer employs 50 or more full-time employees, the minimum hourly wage
15 then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase
16 in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of
17 the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the
18 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the
19 Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of
20 Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the
21 minimum wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal
22 minimum wage is increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this section,
23 the minimum wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the
24 same date as the increase in the federal minimum wage, and must be increased in
25 accordance with this section thereafter.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill increases the minimum wage of the employees of employers employing 50
28 or more full-time employees to \$13.00 on January 1, 2021, to \$14.00 on January 1, 2022
29 and to \$15.00 on January 1, 2023.