



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 520

H.P. 325

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

**An Act to Retain Home and Community-based Workers by
Increasing MaineCare Reimbursement for Certain Essential
Support Workers**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of
Portland, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §7402, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. AAAA, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. At least 125% of the minimum wage.** An amount equal to at least 125% of the
5 minimum wage established in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1 for the labor portion of
6 the reimbursement rate. An increase to the minimum wage must be applied to the
7 reimbursement rate at the time the increase takes place. Additionally, the department shall
8 annually adjust its reimbursement rates for services provided by essential support workers
9 in municipalities where the local minimum wage exceeds 125% of the state minimum wage
10 to ensure that the labor portion of reimbursement is increased by the amount by which a
11 municipality's local minimum wage exceeds 125% of the state minimum wage; and

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to annually adjust its
14 reimbursement rates for home and community-based services provided by essential support
15 workers in municipalities where the local minimum wage exceeds 125% of the state
16 minimum wage to ensure that that the labor portion of reimbursement is increased by the
17 amount by which a municipality's local minimum wage exceeds 125% of the state
18 minimum wage.