



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 830

H.P. 604

House of Representatives, February 14, 2019

**An Act To Balance Maine's Minimum Wage for Small and 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 STETKIS of Canaan.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, DRINKWATER of Milford,
FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GRIGNON of Athens, MASON of Lisbon, PICKETT of
Dixfield, Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, FARRIN of Somerset.

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2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§1**, as amended by IB 2015, c. 2, §1, is repealed and
3 the following enacted in its place:

4 **1. Minimum wage for small and large employers.** The minimum hourly wage is
5 as established in this subsection.

6 **A.** For an employer that employs at least 50 full-time employees in this State:

7 (1) Starting January 1, 2019, the minimum hourly wage is \$11.00 per hour; and

8 (2) Starting January 1, 2021, the minimum hourly wage is \$12.00 per hour.

9 **B.** For an employer that employs fewer than 50 full-time employees in this State,
10 starting October 1, 2019, the minimum hourly wage is \$10.00 per hour.

11 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

12 **1-A. Indexing of minimum wage for cost of living.** On January 1, 2022 and each
13 January 1st thereafter, the minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the
14 increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living must be measured
15 by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of
16 August of the year preceding that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage
17 Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as
18 published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its
19 successor agency, with the amount of the minimum wage increase rounded to the nearest
20 multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal minimum wage is increased in excess of the
21 minimum wage in effect under this section, the minimum wage under this section is
22 increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in the federal
23 minimum wage, and must be increased in accordance with this section thereafter.

24 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect October 1, 2019.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill establishes a minimum hourly wage for small employers that is less than the
27 minimum hourly wage for large employers. Beginning October 1, 2019, for an employer
28 with fewer than 50 full-time employees in Maine, the minimum hourly wage is
29 established at \$10; the minimum hourly wage for an employer of at least 50 full-time
30 employees in Maine remains at \$11 until January 1, 2021, when it increases to \$12. This
31 bill also delays the indexing of the minimum hourly wage for cost-of-living adjustments
32 by one year until 2022.