



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1580

H.P. 1025

House of Representatives, April 11, 2023

**An Act to Help Maine Small Businesses with Increasing Costs by  
Removing the Annual Cost-of-living Adjustment for the Minimum  
Wage**

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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 MORRIS of Turner.  
Cosponsored by Representative: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, Senator: TIMBERLAKE of  
Androscoggin.

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~~ \$13.80 per hour. Starting  
5 January 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 \$12.00  
8 per hour. ~~On January 1, 2021 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum hourly wage~~  
9 ~~then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase~~  
10 ~~in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of~~  
11 ~~the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the~~  
12 ~~Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the~~  
13 ~~Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of~~  
14 ~~Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum~~  
15 ~~wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal minimum wage~~  
16 ~~is increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this section, the minimum wage~~  
17 ~~under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the~~  
18 ~~increase in the federal minimum wage, and must be increased in accordance with this~~  
19 ~~section thereafter.~~

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#### SUMMARY

21 This bill removes the annual cost-of-living adjustment for the minimum hourly wage.  
22 The current minimum wage is \$13.80 per hour due to inflation adjustments.