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Date: (Filing No. H-)

LABOR AND HOUSING

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1462, L.D. 2273, “An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers”

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 2-B by striking out all of §652 (page 1, lines 22 to 37 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

§652. Minimum hourly wage

An employer may not employ an employee at a rate less than the rates required by this section.

1. Minimum hourly wage for an employee not paid by piece rate. Beginning September 1, 2024, the minimum hourly wage for an employee not paid by piece rate is \$14.15 per hour. On January 1, 2025 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum hourly wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal minimum hourly wage is increased in excess of the minimum hourly wage in effect under this section, the minimum hourly wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum hourly wage, and must be increased in accordance with this section thereafter.

2. Minimum hourly wage for an employee paid by piece rate. Beginning September 1, 2024, the minimum hourly wage for an employee paid by piece rate is \$10 per hour.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in sub-c. 2-B in §653 in the first indented paragraph in the last 3 lines (page 2, lines 12 to 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "All information received is considered confidential and may not be divulged to any other person or agency, except as may be necessary for the enforcement of this subchapter."

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
2 number to read consecutively.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, provides that an
5 individual employed to perform agricultural labor that is paid by piece rate may not be paid
6 at a minimum hourly rate of less than \$10 per hour. It also makes a technical correction.

7 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

8 **(See attached)**