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## **An Act To Increase Fines for Certain Wage and Benefits Violations**

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

**Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §626-A, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 465, §5, is further amended to read:

Whoever violates any of the provisions of sections 621-A to 623 or section 626, 628, 629 or 629-B is subject to a ~~forfeiture~~fine of ~~not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each~~the first violation and \$2,500 for each subsequent violation. A civil action may be brought against an employer under this chapter by any person aggrieved by a violation of sections 621-A to 623 or section 626, 628, 629 or 629-B. If the court finds that the employer violated sections 621-A to 623 or section 626, 628, 629 or 629-B, it may award damages, including attorney's fees.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill amends the law regarding employment practices by increasing the fine for a violation of certain state wage and benefits laws to \$500 for the first violation and \$2,500 for each subsequent violation and by providing a private right of action for a person aggrieved of such a violation.