



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 775

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H.P. 555

House of Representatives, March 2, 2017

### **An Act To Prohibit the Minimum Wage from Exceeding the New England Average**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HARVELL of Farmington.  
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, FARRIN of Norridgewock, HILLIARD of  
Belgrade, O'CONNOR of Berwick, PARRY of Arundel, POULIOT of Augusta,  
SANDERSON of Chelsea, VACHON of Scarborough.

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 per hour. Starting January  
5 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  
8 \$12.00 per hour. On January 1, 2021 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum  
9 hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living.  
10 The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as  
11 of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year  
12 in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for  
13 the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States  
14 Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount  
15 of the minimum wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. Notwithstanding  
16 this subsection, the minimum wage may not exceed the average minimum wage paid in  
17 the New England states, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor. If the highest  
18 federal minimum wage is increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this  
19 section, the minimum wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective  
20 on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum wage, and must be increased in  
21 accordance with this section thereafter.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill provides that the minimum wage may not exceed the average minimum  
24 wage paid in the New England states, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor.