



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1233

H.P. 904

House of Representatives, March 24, 2021

**An Act To Determine How Many Employees of Large Companies in
Maine Receive Public Benefits**

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 22, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MORALES of South Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1407** is enacted to read:

3 **§1407. Department to gather data on number of employees of large businesses who**
4 **receive public benefits**

5 The department with the assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services
6 shall gather data regarding the number of persons who are employed by businesses in this
7 State that have 50 or more employees and who receive public benefits, including but not
8 limited to benefits under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program,
9 the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the MaineCare program;
10 municipal general assistance; housing assistance under Section 8 of the United States
11 Housing Act of 1937; and benefits under the Bridging Rental Assistance Program
12 established in Title 34-B, section 3011. The data gathering process must respect the privacy
13 rights of individual employees, and the data gathered may not identify individual
14 employees. The department shall report its findings under this section to the joint standing
15 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters no later than December
16 1st each year.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the Department of Labor with the assistance of the Department of
19 Health and Human Services to gather data regarding the number of persons who are
20 employed by businesses in this State that have 50 or more employees and who receive
21 public benefits, including but not limited to benefits under the federal Temporary
22 Assistance for Needy Families program, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
23 Program and the MaineCare program; municipal general assistance; Section 8 housing
24 assistance; and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program. The data gathering process must
25 respect the privacy rights of individual employees, and the data gathered may not identify
26 individual employees. The department must report its findings to the joint standing
27 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters no later than December
28 1st each year.