



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 425

H.P. 334

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

**An Act To Strengthen Small Businesses in Rural Maine by
Changing the Minimum Wage**

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 WHITE of Washburn.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, GRIGNON of Athens, JOHANSEN of
Monticello, REED of Carmel, Senators: BLACK of Franklin, CYRWAY of Kennebec,
POULIOT of Kennebec, 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 ~~\$10.00~~ per hour. Starting
5 January 1, 2017, the minimum hourly wage is \$9.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2018,
6 the minimum hourly wage is \$10.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2019, the minimum
7 hourly wage is \$11.00 per hour; and starting January 1, 2020, the minimum hourly wage
8 is \$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¢. If the highest
16 federal minimum wage is increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this
17 section, the minimum wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective
18 on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum wage, and must be increased in
19 accordance with this section thereafter.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill sets the minimum wage at \$10.00 per hour and removes the provision that
22 requires the minimum wage to be increased annually by the increase, if any, in the cost of
23 living.