



Josh Tardy
On Behalf of the Maine Tourism Association
In Opposition To

LD 607 An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers

March 22, 2021

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing:

My name is Josh Tardy, and I am here today presenting testimony for Alison Sucy, the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Government Affairs of the Maine Tourism Association.

The Maine Tourism Association is the state's largest advocate for all tourism-related businesses. Incorporated in 1922, MTA members includes lodging, restaurants, camps, campgrounds, retail, outdoor recreation, guides, tour operators, amusements, and cultural and historical attractions. MTA also operates the seven State Visitor Information Centers from Kittery to Calais, and annually produces the state's official travel planner, [*Maine Invites You*](#).

The Maine Tourism Association opposes LD 607.

Maine's tourism industry is one the hardest hit by COVID-19. The seismic blow to tourism in our State has most assuredly impacted the more than 100,000 workers who depend on tourism for their jobs and has dealt considerable financial consequence at all levels of Maine's economy.

For many working in the tourism industry, if passed, the bill before us today will likely eliminate a predictable weekly wage, flexibility in scheduling, networking and career building opportunities as well as incentives and bonuses.

I think we all recognize that a salaried position holds some measure of prestige; in some respects, a salaried position represents an important milestone on one's career path and marks career advancement.

The fact of the matter is employers in the tourism sector simply will not be able to keep pace with the rapidly increasing salary adjustments set forth in this bill. If passed, LD 670 will ultimately force employers to recategorize trusted and valued salaried employees to hourly employees.



We know that hiring at small businesses, shifts worked across a range of industries, credit card spending and even gasoline demand that typically grows through the summer remained flat and far below 2019 levels. And we don't yet know what the summer of 2021 portends.

Why, in the immediate aftermath of one of the worst economic downturns in Maine's history, would we choose to add to the burden Maine employers are currently facing? And why would we choose to pass a law that for all intents and purposes will ultimately harm employees?

I urge you to oppose LD 607. Thank you for your time and attention.