

CHAPTER 7**EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES****SUBCHAPTER 1****CONDITIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT****§591. Examination; definitions**

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings: [PL 1985, c. 112, §1 (AMD).]

1. Employee. "Employee" means every person who may be permitted, required or directed by any employer in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, to engage in any employment; [PL 1985, c. 112, §1 (AMD).]

2. Employer. "Employer" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy and any common carrier by rail, motor, water, air or express company doing business in or operating within the State; and [PL 2011, c. 643, §3 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF).]

3. Independent contractor. "Independent contractor" means an individual who qualifies as an independent contractor under section 1043, subsection 11, paragraph E. [PL 2011, c. 643, §4 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 112, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 643, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF).

§591-A. Employee misclassification

An employer that intentionally or knowingly misclassifies an employee as an independent contractor commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$10,000 per violation may be adjudged. [PL 2011, c. 643, §5 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF).]

A determination of misclassification of a worker as an independent contractor may result in the assessment of penalties under section 1051, 1082 or 1225 or Title 39-A, section 105-A or 324. [PL 2011, c. 643, §5 (NEW); PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 643, §5 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF).

§592. Charge by employer prohibited

No employer may require any employee or accepted applicant for employment to bear the medical expense of an examination when that examination is ordered or required by the employer. No employer may require any employee or accepted applicant for employment to bear the expense of an eye examination ordered or required by the employer that is performed by a person licensed to perform the examinations, except that if an employer orders or requires the eye examination to be performed by a specific type of eye care provider, or specific provider, the employer must pay for the examination only when performed by that specific type of eye care provider or specific provider. An employer may pay for an examination under this section directly or through group health insurance coverage of the employee or may pay in another manner, as long as the employee is not required to bear the expense of that examination, including but not limited to any copayments or other out-of-pocket expenses. Any employer who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$50

for each and every violation may be adjudged. It is the duty of the director to enforce this section. Notwithstanding section 591, subsection 2, for the purposes of this section, the term "employer" includes the State, a county, a municipality, a quasi-municipal corporation or any other public employer. For the purposes of this section, the term "accepted applicant" means an applicant who has been offered a job by the employer. [PL 2013, c. 363, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 112, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 535 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 363, §1 (AMD).

§593. Textile piecework

1. Posting of specifications. The occupiers or managers of every textile factory shall post in every room where employees work by piece rate, in legible writing or printing, and in sufficient numbers to be easily accessible to such employees, specifications of the character of each kind of work to be done by them and the rate of compensation, whether paid by the pound or by the pick as registered by the pick clock on each loom. Such specifications in the case of weaving rooms must state the intended and maximum length of a cut or piece, the count per inch of reed and the number of picks per inch, width of loom and width of cloth woven in the loom, and each warp must bear a designating ticket or mark of identification.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Pick clocks. In mills operating looms engaged in the weaving of cloth or other textiles where weavers are not paid on a per hour or day basis, pick clocks must be placed on each loom in operation, and each weaver must be paid according to the number of picks registered on the pick clock.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

B. A person who violates this section after having previously violated this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

C. A person who violates this section after having previously violated this section 2 or more times commits a Class E crime, which is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A. [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

4. Application. This section does not apply to so-called gang looms or the weaving of carpets or elastic webbing.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 452, §O1 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§594. Charge by an employer for an application for employment

It is unlawful for an employer to assess a fee or charge a prospective employee in any fashion for requesting, submitting, filing or completing an application for employment with that employer. Any employer who violates this section shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$500 for each violation. It is the duty of the director to enforce this section. [PL 1983, c. 627 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 627 (NEW).

§595. Hiring of workers during a labor dispute**1. Legislative findings.** The Legislature finds that:

A. The practice of receiving applicants for employment, conducting interviews of job applicants or performing medical examinations of job applicants at the worksite of an employer who is currently engaged in a labor dispute with that employer's employees tends to incite violence by bringing individuals who may be considered as replacements for workers to the physical focus of the labor dispute and by encouraging a direct confrontation between these individuals and the prior employees; and [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §10 (COR).]

B. The presence of persons carrying dangerous weapons near sites where applications for positions with an employer involved in a labor dispute are being accepted or where interviews of those job applicants are being conducted or medical examinations of those applicants are being performed creates an unacceptable risk of violence; and [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

C. The public safety requires the regulation of these practices to reduce the likelihood of violence. [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §10 (COR).]

2. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to reduce the potential for violence during labor disputes by prohibiting certain provocative acts and imposing penalties for failure to obey this section. [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

3. Receiving job applicants at worksite prohibited. No employer may perform any of the following acts at any of that employer's plants, facilities, places of business or worksites where a labor dispute, strike or lockout involving the employees of that employer is in progress:

A. Receiving persons for the purpose of soliciting or receiving applications for employment with the employer; [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

B. Conducting or having conducted interviews of applicants for employment with the employer; or [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

C. Performing or having performed medical examinations of applicants for employment with the employer. [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

Any employer who violates this subsection is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each day the violation continues, payable to the State, to be recovered in a civil action. Upon request, any court of competent jurisdiction shall also enjoin the violation under section 5.

The Attorney General, the Commissioner of Labor or any employee, employees or bargaining agent of employees involved in the labor dispute may file a civil action to enforce this subsection.

[PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

4. Hiring off-site permitted. An employer involved in a labor dispute, strike or lockout may perform hiring activities prohibited under subsection 3 at any site other than the employer's customary plants, facilities, places of business or worksites where a labor dispute, strike or lockout involving the employees of that employer is in progress.

A. The employer must notify the law enforcement agencies of the county and municipality in which the hiring activities will be conducted at least 10 days before commencing hiring activities. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §11 (COR).]

B. An employee of the employer conducting hiring activities under this subsection and who is involved in the labor dispute, strike or lockout may not picket, congregate or in any way protest the hiring activities of the employer within 200 feet of the building or structure at which such activities are taking place. Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §11 (COR).]

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §11 (COR).]

5. Dangerous weapons prohibited. It is a Class D crime for any person, including, but not limited to, security guards and persons involved in a labor dispute, strike or lockout, to be armed with a dangerous weapon, as defined in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 9, at a site where applications for employment with an employer involved in a labor dispute, strike or lockout are being received or where interviews of those job applicants are being conducted or where medical examinations of those job applicants are being performed.

A. A person holding a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun is not exempt from this subsection. [PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. A, §14 (AMD).]

B. A security guard is exempt from this subsection to the extent that federal laws or rules required the security guard to be armed with a dangerous weapon at such a site. [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

C. A public law enforcement officer is exempt from this subsection while on active duty in the public service. [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

D. A security guard employed by an employer involved in a labor dispute, strike or lockout may be present at the location where applications for employment with the employer will be accepted, interviews of those applicants conducted or medical examinations of those applicants performed to the extent permitted under Title 32, chapter 93. Nothing in this section may be construed to extend or limit in any way the restrictions placed upon the location of private security guards under Title 32, chapter 93. [PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. A, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 558, §1 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. A, §14 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §§10, 11 (COR).

§596. Recall period

An employee who is temporarily laid off by an employer for over 6 weeks and who is placed on a "recall" or "spare" list by that employer for the purpose of being recalled to work shall have 7 days from receiving notice of a recall to work in which to respond to the notice without discrimination on subsequent recalls by the employer. [PL 1989, c. 460 (NEW).]

1. Effect of exercising option. No employer may remove an employee from a "recall" or "spare" list solely because the employee chooses to exercise the 7-day option under this section. No employer may discriminate against an employee in subsequent recalls to work solely because the employee chooses to exercise the 7-day option under this section.

[PL 1989, c. 460 (NEW).]

2. Limitations. Nothing in this section may be construed to:

A. Prevent an employer from offering recall to another employee on the "recall" or "spare" list in the place of an employee who is contacted earlier but who chooses to exercise the 7-day option under this section; [PL 1989, c. 460 (NEW).]

B. Require an employer to hold a position or an offer of recall open for an employee who exercises the 7-day option under this section; or [PL 1989, c. 460 (NEW).]

C. Require an employee to wait 7 days before returning to work after receiving a recall notice. [PL 1989, c. 460 (NEW).]

[PL 1989, c. 460 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 460 (NEW).

§597. Conditions of employment

An employer or an agent of an employer may not require, as a condition of employment, that any employee or prospective employee refrain from using tobacco products outside the course of that employment or otherwise discriminate against any person with respect to the person's compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment for using tobacco products outside the course of employment as long as the employee complies with any workplace policy concerning use of tobacco. This section does not prohibit an employer or an agent of an employer from offering a voluntary wellness program that offers incentives for the cessation of use of tobacco products in compliance with applicable federal regulations. [PL 2017, c. 219, §6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 366 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 219, §6 (AMD).

§598. Employment reference immunity

An employer who discloses information about a former employee's job performance or work record to a prospective employer is presumed to be acting in good faith and, unless lack of good faith is shown by clear and convincing evidence, is immune from civil liability for such disclosure or its consequences. Clear and convincing evidence of lack of good faith means evidence that clearly shows the knowing disclosure, with malicious intent, of false or deliberately misleading information. This section is supplemental to and not in derogation of any claims available to the former employee that exist under state law and any protections that are already afforded employers under state law. [PL 1995, c. 335, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 335, §1 (NEW).

§598-A. Prospective employee's social security number

Except as required by federal law, beginning January 1, 2020, an employer may not request a social security number from a prospective employee on an employment application or during the application process for employment except for the purposes of substance use testing under subchapter 3-A or a preemployment background check. This section does not apply to an employer's request for a social security number after the employee has been hired. [PL 2019, c. 567, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 47, §1 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 567, §1 (AMD).

§599. Broadcasting industry contract

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "broadcasting industry contract" means an employment contract between a person and a legal entity that owns one or more television stations or networks or one or more radio stations or networks. [PL 2003, c. 225, §1 (AMD).]

2. Presumed unreasonable. A broadcasting industry contract provision that requires an employee or prospective employee to refrain from obtaining employment in a specified geographic area for a specified period of time following expiration of the contract or upon termination of employment without fault of the employee is presumed to be unreasonable. [PL 1999, c. 406, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 406, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 225, §1 (AMD).

§599-A. Noncompete agreements

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Federal poverty level" means the nonfarm income official poverty line for an individual, as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, Section 673(2). [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Noncompete agreement" means a contract or contract provision that prohibits an employee or prospective employee from working in the same or a similar profession or in a specified geographic area for a certain period of time following termination of employment. [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

2. Public policy; enforceability of noncompete agreements. Noncompete agreements are contrary to public policy and are enforceable only to the extent that they are reasonable and are no broader than necessary to protect one or more of the following legitimate business interests of the employer:

A. The employer's trade secrets, as defined in Title 10, section 1542, subsection 4; [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

B. The employer's confidential information that does not qualify as a trade secret; or [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

C. The employer's goodwill. [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

A noncompete agreement may be presumed necessary if the legitimate business interest cannot be adequately protected through an alternative restrictive covenant, including but not limited to a nonsolicitation agreement or a nondisclosure or confidentiality agreement.

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

3. Prohibited for certain workers. Notwithstanding subsection 2, an employer may not require or permit an employee to enter into a noncompete agreement with the employer if:

A. The employee is earning wages at or below 400% of the federal poverty level; or [PL 2023, c. 118, §1 (NEW).]

B. The employee is a veterinarian licensed under Title 32, chapter 71-A and is employed in a veterinary facility in which the employee does not have an ownership interest.

A court may not enforce a noncompete agreement entered into or renewed with an employee who is a veterinarian licensed under Title 32, chapter 71-A before the effective date of this paragraph unless the employee is working in a veterinary facility in which the employee has an ownership interest. [PL 2023, c. 118, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 118, §1 (AMD).]

4. Disclosure; notice. An employer shall disclose prior to an offer of employment with the employer that will require the acceptance of a noncompete agreement a statement that a noncompete agreement will be required.

An employer shall notify an employee or prospective employee of a noncompete agreement requirement and provide a copy of the noncompete agreement not less than 3 business days before the employer requires the agreement to be signed to allow time for the employee or prospective employee to review the agreement and negotiate the terms of the agreement or employment with the employer if the employee or prospective employee wishes to do so.

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

5. Effective date of a noncompete agreement. Except for a noncompete agreement between an employer and an allopathic physician or an osteopathic physician licensed under Title 32, chapter 48

or chapter 36, respectively, the terms of a noncompete agreement do not take effect until after one year of the employee's employment with the employer or a period of 6 months from the date the agreement was signed, whichever is later.

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

6. Penalty; enforcement. An employer that violates subsection 3 or 4 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$5,000 may be adjudged. The Department of Labor is responsible for enforcement of this section.

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

7. Application. This section applies to all noncompete agreements entered into or renewed after the effective date of this section.

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 118, §1 (AMD).

§599-B. Restrictive employment agreements

1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "restrictive employment agreement" means an agreement that:

A. Is between 2 or more employers, including through a franchise agreement or a contractor and subcontractor agreement; and [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

B. Prohibits or restricts one employer from soliciting or hiring another employer's employees or former employees. [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

2. Restrictive employment agreements prohibited. An employer may not:

A. Enter into a restrictive employment agreement; or [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

B. Enforce or threaten to enforce a restrictive employment agreement. [PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

3. Penalty; enforcement. An employer that violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$5,000 may be adjudged. The Department of Labor is responsible for enforcement of this section.

[PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 513, §1 (NEW).

§599-C. Nondisclosure agreements

1. Employer defined. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "employer" has the same meaning as in section 615, subsection 3.

[PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

2. Certain preemployment and employment agreements prohibited. An employer may not require an employee, intern or applicant for employment to enter into a contract or agreement that waives or limits any right to report or discuss unlawful employment discrimination, as defined and limited by Title 5, chapter 337, subchapter 3, occurring in the workplace or at work-related events.

[PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

3. Certain settlement, separation and severance agreements prohibited. An employer may not require an employee, intern or applicant for employment to enter into a settlement, separation or severance agreement that includes a provision that:

A. Limits an individual's right to report, testify or provide evidence to a federal or state agency that enforces employment or discrimination laws; [PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

B. Prevents an individual from testifying or providing evidence in federal and state court proceedings in response to legal process; or [PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

C. Prohibits an individual from reporting conduct to a law enforcement agency. [PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

4. Settlement, separation or severance agreement requirements. A settlement, separation or severance agreement may include a provision that prevents the subsequent disclosure of factual information relating to a claim of unlawful employment discrimination, as defined and limited by Title 5, chapter 337, subchapter 3, only if:

A. The agreement expressly provides for separate monetary consideration for the provision in addition to anything of value to which the employee, intern or applicant for employment is already entitled; [PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

B. The provision applies to all parties to the agreement to the extent otherwise permitted by law; [PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

C. The agreement clearly states that the individual retains the right to report, testify or provide evidence to federal and state agencies that enforce employment or discrimination laws and to testify and provide evidence in federal and state court proceedings; and [PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

D. The employer retains a copy of the agreement for 6 years following the execution of the agreement or the end of employment, whichever is later. Records required to be kept by this paragraph must be accessible to any representative of the Department of Labor at any reasonable hour. [PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

Nothing in this section may be construed as limiting the use of nondisclosure agreements to protect the confidentiality of proprietary information, trade secrets or information that is otherwise confidential by law, rule or regulation.

[PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

5. Enforcement. The Department of Labor shall enforce this section. In addition, the Attorney General may bring an action under this section to impose a fine or to enjoin further violation. An employer that intentionally violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of up to \$1,000 may be adjudged.

[PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 760, §1 (NEW).

§600. Concealed firearms in vehicles

1. Firearms in vehicles. An employer or an agent of an employer may not prohibit an employee who has a valid permit to carry a concealed firearm under Title 25, chapter 252 from keeping a firearm in the employee's vehicle as long as the vehicle is locked and the firearm is not visible. This subsection applies to the State as an employer when a state employee's vehicle is on property owned or leased by the State. This subsection does not authorize an employee or state employee to carry a firearm in a place where carrying a firearm is prohibited by law. For purposes of this section, "state employee" means an employee of the State within the executive branch, the legislative branch or the judicial branch performing services within the scope of that employee's employment.

[PL 2011, c. 537, §1 (AMD).]

2. Immunity from liability. An employer or an agent of an employer may not be held liable in any civil action for damages, injury or death resulting from or arising out of another person's actions involving a firearm or ammunition transported or stored pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, the theft of a firearm from an employee's vehicle, unless the employer or an agent of the employer intentionally solicited or procured the other person's injurious actions. Nothing in this section affects provisions in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

[PL 2011, c. 393, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 393, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 537, §1 (AMD).

§600-A. Criminal history record information; employment application

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Criminal history record information" has the same meaning as in Title 16, section 703, subsection 3. [PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Employer" means a person in this State who employs individuals. "Employer" includes municipalities and political subdivisions of the State, but does not include an employer of an individual who holds a position in the legislative, executive or judicial branch of State Government or a position with a quasi-independent state entity or public instrumentality of the State. "Employer" includes a person acting in the interest of an employer directly or indirectly. [PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

2. Initial employee application form. Except as provided in subsection 4, an employer may not:

A. Request criminal history record information on the employer's initial employee application form; or [PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

B. State on an initial employee application form or advertisement or specify prior to determining a person is otherwise qualified for the position that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for a position. [PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

3. Interviews. An employer may inquire about a prospective employee's criminal history record information during an interview or once the prospective employee has been determined otherwise qualified for the position. An employer that inquires about a prospective employee's criminal history record information shall afford to the prospective employee the opportunity to explain the information and the circumstances regarding any convictions, including post-conviction rehabilitation.

[PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

4. Exceptions for initial employee application form. An employer may inquire about criminal convictions on an initial employee application form or state on an initial employee application form or advertisement or otherwise assert that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for a position if:

A. The position is one for which a federal or state law or regulation or rule creates a mandatory or presumptive disqualification based on a conviction for one or more types of criminal offenses, and the questions on the initial employee application form are limited to the types of criminal offenses creating the disqualification; or [PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

B. The employer is subject to an obligation imposed by a federal or state law or regulation or rule not to employ in a position a person who has been convicted of one or more types of criminal offenses, and the questions on the initial employee application form are limited to the types of criminal offenses creating the obligation. [PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

5. Penalty. This section must be enforced pursuant to section 626-A.

[PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 404, §1 (NEW).

§600-B. Adverse action against employee concerning certain religious or political matters prohibited

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Political matters" means matters relating to elections for political office, political parties, proposals to change legislation, proposals to change rules or regulations, proposals to change public policy and the decision to join or support any political party or political, civic, community, fraternal or labor organization. [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Religious employer" means a church or convention or association of churches or an organization that is operated primarily for religious purposes and that is operated, supervised, controlled or principally supported by a church or convention or association of churches. [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Religious matters" means matters relating to religious belief, affiliation and practice and the decision to join or support any religious organization or association. [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

2. Adverse action prohibited. An employer or the employer's agent, representative or designee may not discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize or threaten to discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize or take any adverse employment action against an employee because:

A. The employee declines to attend or participate in an employer-sponsored meeting, or any portion of such a meeting, that communicates the opinion of the employer about religious or political matters; [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

B. The employee declines to receive or listen to a communication from the employer or the agent, representative or designee of the employer, or any portion of such a communication, that communicates the opinion of the employer about religious or political matters; or [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

C. The employee, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, makes a good faith report, orally or in writing, of a violation or a suspected violation of this section. [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

3. Enforcement. An aggrieved employee may bring a civil action to enforce this section no later than 90 days after the date of the alleged violation in the Superior Court for the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred or where the principal office of the employer is located. The court may award a prevailing employee all appropriate relief, including injunctive relief, reinstatement to the employee's former position or an equivalent position, back pay and reestablishment of any employee benefits, including seniority, to which the employee would otherwise have been eligible if the violation had not occurred and any other appropriate relief as considered necessary by the court.

[PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

4. Notice. Within 30 days after the effective date of this section, an employer subject to this section shall post and keep posted a notice of employee rights under this section where employee notices are customarily placed.

[PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

5. Communications and rights not affected. This section does not:

A. Prohibit communications of information that the employer is required by law to communicate, but only to the extent of the lawful requirement; [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

B. Limit the rights of an employer or its agent, representative or designee to conduct meetings involving religious matters or political matters as long as attendance is wholly voluntary or to engage in communications as long as receipt or listening is wholly voluntary; or [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

C. Limit the rights of an employer or its agent, representative or designee from communicating to its employees any information that is necessary for such employees to perform their lawfully required job duties. [PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

6. Exemption. This section does not apply to a religious employer.

[PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 414, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 1-A

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

§601. Rest breaks

In the absence of a collective bargaining agreement or other written employer-employee agreement providing otherwise, an employee, as defined in section 663, may be employed or permitted to work for no more than 6 consecutive hours at one time unless the employee is given the opportunity to take at least 30 consecutive minutes of rest time, except in cases of emergency in which there is danger to property, life, public safety or public health. This rest time may be used by the employee as unpaid mealtime, but only if the employee is completely relieved of duty. [PL 2017, c. 219, §7 (AMD).]

1. Small business. This section does not apply to any place of employment where:

A. Fewer than 3 employees are on duty at any one time; and [PL 1985, c. 212 (NEW).]

B. The nature of the work done by the employee allows the employee frequent paid breaks of a shorter duration during the employee's work day. [PL 2017, c. 219, §7 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 219, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 212 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 219, §7 (AMD).

§602. Enforcement and penalty

The following provisions govern the enforcement of this subchapter. [PL 1985, c. 212 (NEW).]

1. Violation. Any employer who violates this subchapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each violation may be adjudged.

[PL 1985, c. 212 (NEW).]

2. Discharge or discrimination. Any employer who discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any employee because the employee makes a complaint to the director, the district

attorney or the Attorney General concerning a violation of this subchapter, commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

[PL 1985, c. 212 (NEW).]

3. Injunction. If any provision of this subchapter is violated, the Attorney General may seek an injunction in the Superior Court to enjoin any further violations or to compel the reinstatement of an employee discharged or discriminated against as described in subsection 2.

[PL 1985, c. 212 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 212 (NEW).

§603. Limits on mandatory overtime

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employer" means all private and public employers, including the State and political subdivisions of the State. [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Overtime" means the hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a calendar week. [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

2. Limits on mandatory overtime. An employer may not require an employee to work more than 80 hours of overtime in any consecutive 2-week period.

[PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

3. Exceptions. This section does not apply to:

A. Work performed in response to an emergency declared by the Governor under the laws of the State; [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

B. An employee who performs essential services for the public. For purposes of this paragraph, "essential services" means those services that are basic or indispensable and are provided to the public as a whole, including, but not limited to, utility service, snowplowing, road maintenance and telecommunications service; [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

C. An employee whose work is necessary to protect the public health or safety, when the excess overtime is required outside the normal course of business; [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

D. An individual exempt from the definition of employee in section 663, subsection 3, paragraph A, C, F, G, I or J; [PL 2007, c. 640, §1 (AMD).]

E. A salaried employee who works in a bona fide executive capacity and whose regular compensation, when converted to an annual rate, exceeds 3000 times the State's minimum hourly wage; [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

F. An employee of a seasonal employer. For purposes of this paragraph, "seasonal employer" means an employer in an industry that operates in a regularly recurring period or periods of less than 26 weeks in a calendar year; [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

G. A medical intern or resident engaged in a graduate educational program approved by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association at a health care facility. For purposes of this paragraph, "health care facility" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 8702, subsection 4; or [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

H. An employee who works for an employer who shuts down an operation for annual maintenance or work performed in the construction, rebuilding, maintenance or repair of production machinery

and equipment, including machine start-ups and shutdowns related to such activity. This exception applies to contractors of the employer that are providing services related to the activities in this paragraph. It does not apply to other operations not involved in the work stated in this paragraph. Notwithstanding this paragraph, a worker may not be required to work beyond the limits prescribed in subsection 2 for more than 4 consecutive weeks. [PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 640, §1 (AMD).]

4. Lower limit by agreement. Employers and employees may agree to limit mandatory overtime to fewer hours than provided for in this section.

[PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW).]

5. Exception for nurse. Notwithstanding subsection 2, a nurse may not be disciplined for refusing to work more than 12 consecutive hours. A nurse may be disciplined for refusing mandatory overtime in the case of an unforeseen emergent circumstance when overtime is required as a last resort to ensure patient safety. Any nurse who is mandated to work more than 12 consecutive hours, as permitted by this section, must be allowed at least 10 consecutive hours of off-duty time immediately following the worked overtime.

This subsection does not apply to overtime for performance of services described in subsection 3, paragraph A or C.

[PL 2001, c. 401, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 750, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 401, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 640, §1 (AMD).

§604. Nursing in the workplace

An employer, as defined in section 603, subsection 1, paragraph A, shall provide adequate unpaid break time or permit an employee to use paid break time or meal time each day to express breast milk for the employee's nursing child for up to 3 years following childbirth. The employer shall make reasonable efforts to provide a clean room or other location, other than a bathroom, where an employee may express breast milk in privacy. An employer may not discriminate in any way against an employee who chooses to express breast milk in the workplace. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §12 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 84, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §12 (COR).

SUBCHAPTER 1-B

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

§611. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW).]

1. Employment agency. "Employment agency" means a person who conducts a full-time or part-time service for the purpose of procuring or attempting to procure permanent or temporary employment or engagement for persons seeking employment or engagement or for giving information about where employment or engagement may be procured when a fee paid by the employee is charged for that service. Employment agencies do not include teachers' agencies, nurses' associations, charitable institutions, arrangers of employment for crew members of vessels and professional or occupational associations that serve only their own membership and that charge only a nominal fee and persons employed by a public or private nonprofit agency.

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §13 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §13 (COR).

§612. Fees charged to applicants for employment; receipt

1. Placement fee. The placement fee charged to an applicant for employment by an employment agency shall not exceed the equivalent of the first full week's gross wages. This fee shall be in full compensation for all services of the employment agency. If for any reason employment terminates in less than one month, the fee shall be adjusted so as not to exceed 10% of the wages earned.

[PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW).]

2. Terms of payment of fee for placement. If the placement fee charged to an applicant for employment is paid weekly, 1/8 of the fee shall be paid each week for the first 8 weeks of employment; if paid semi-monthly, each payment shall be 1/4 of the total fee; and if paid monthly, each payment shall be 1/2 of the total fee.

[PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW).]

3. Receipt given to an applicant for employment. Every employment agency shall give to each applicant for employment, from whom a fee or other consideration is received, a receipt which must show the name of the applicant for employment, the amount of the fee, any balance due, the date, name or nature of the employment or situation procured and the name and address of the employer.

[PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW).

§612-A. Municipal licensing

This subchapter may not be construed to prevent a municipality from acting under its home rule authority granted by Title 30-A, section 3001 and by the Constitution of Maine, Article VIII, Part Second, to license or regulate the business of employment agencies or to require a bond. [PL 1991, c. 824, Pt. A, §55 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 583, §2 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 824, §A55 (AMD).

§613. Enforcement penalty

1. Violation. Any employment agency which violates this subchapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each violation may be adjudged.

[PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW).]

2. Civil action. An action may be brought by the injured party, the Attorney General, the Department of Labor or any municipality which has issued a license to the employment agency in accordance with section 612-A.

[PL 1987, c. 583, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 623, §1 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 583, §3 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 1-C**EMPLOYEE SOCIAL MEDIA PRIVACY****§615. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

1. Applicant. "Applicant" means an applicant for employment.
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

2. Employee. "Employee" means an individual who provides services or labor for an employer for wages or other remuneration.
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

3. Employer. "Employer" means a person in this State who employs individuals and includes the State and political subdivisions of the State. "Employer" includes a person acting in the interest of an employer directly or indirectly.
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

4. Social media account. "Social media account" means an account with an electronic medium or service through which users create, share and view user-generated content including but not limited to videos, still photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, instant and text messages, e-mail, online service accounts and Internet website profiles and locations. "Social media account" does not include an account opened at an employer's behest or provided by an employer or intended to be used primarily on behalf of an employer.
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).

§616. Prohibitions

An employer may not: [PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

1. Passwords. Require or coerce an employee or applicant to disclose, or request that an employee or applicant disclose, the password or any other means for accessing a personal social media account;
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

2. Access in presence. Require or coerce an employee or applicant to access, or request that an employee or applicant access, a personal social media account in the presence of the employer or an agent of the employer;
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

3. Information. Require or coerce an employee or applicant to disclose any personal social media account information;
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

4. Contacts. Require or cause an employee or applicant to add anyone, including the employer or an agent of the employer, to the employee's or applicant's list of contacts associated with a personal social media account;
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

5. Settings. Require or cause an employee or applicant to alter, or request that an employee or applicant alter, settings that affect a 3rd party's ability to view the contents of a personal social media account;
[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

6. Employees. Discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize or threaten to discharge, discipline or otherwise penalize an employee for the employee's refusal to disclose or provide access to information as specified in subsection 1, 2 or 3 or for refusal to add anyone to the employee's list of contacts associated with a personal social media account as specified in subsection 4 or to alter the settings associated with a personal social media account as specified in subsection 5; or

[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

7. Applicants. Fail or refuse to hire an applicant as a result of the applicant's refusal to disclose or provide access to information specified in subsection 1, 2 or 3 or refusal to add anyone to the applicant's list of contacts associated with a personal social media account as specified in subsection 4 or to alter the settings associated with a personal social media account as specified in subsection 5.

[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).

§617. Exceptions

1. Publicly available information. This subchapter does not apply to information about an applicant or employee that is publicly available.

[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

2. Duty to screen or supervise. This subchapter does not prohibit or restrict an employer from complying with a duty to screen employees or applicants before hiring or to monitor or retain employee communications that is established by a self-regulatory organization as defined by the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 United States Code, Section 78c(a)(26) or under state or federal law, regulation or rule to the extent necessary to supervise communications of regulated financial institutions or insurance or securities licensees for banking-related, insurance-related or securities-related business purposes.

[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

3. Investigation. This subchapter does not prohibit or restrict an employer from requiring an employee to disclose personal social media account information that the employer reasonably believes to be relevant to an investigation of allegations of employee misconduct or a workplace-related violation of applicable laws, rules or regulations if requiring the disclosure is not otherwise prohibited by law, as long as the information disclosed is accessed and used solely to the extent necessary for purposes of that investigation or a related proceeding.

[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).

§618. Workplace policies

This subchapter does not limit an employer's right to promulgate and maintain lawful workplace policies governing the use of the employer's electronic equipment, including a requirement that an employee disclose to the employer the employee's user name, password or other information necessary to access employer-issued electronic devices, including but not limited to cellular telephones and computers, or to access employer-provided software or e-mail accounts. [PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).

§619. Penalties for violation

An employer who violates this subchapter is subject to a fine imposed by the Department of Labor of not less than \$100 for the first violation, not less than \$250 for the 2nd violation and not less than \$500 for each subsequent violation. [PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 1-D**GENERAL PROVISIONS****§620. Actions intended to prevent exercise of protected rights**

An employer that takes action intended to prevent or penalize a person from exercising rights protected under this chapter commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 for each violation may be adjudged, in addition to any other remedy available under this chapter. The Department of Labor and the Attorney General may file a civil action to enforce this section. [PL 2023, c. 282, §1 (NEW).]

This section may not be construed to limit or restrict the rights of an individual to seek other available remedies in a separate legal action. [PL 2023, c. 282, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 282, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 2**WAGES AND MEDIUM OF PAYMENT****§621. Time of payment**

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 778 (RPR). PL 1995, c. 340, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 465, §1 (RP).

§621-A. Timely and full payment of wages

1. Minimum frequency and full payment. At regular intervals not to exceed 16 days, every employer must pay in full all wages earned by each employee, except members of the family of the employer and salaried employees. Each payment must include all wages earned to within 8 days of the payment date. Payments that fall on a day when the business is regularly closed must be paid no later than the following business day. An employee who is absent from work at a time fixed for payment must be paid as if the employee was not absent. For purposes of this subsection, "members of the family of the employer" and "salaried employees" have the same meanings as described in section 663, subsection 3, paragraphs J and K, respectively.

[PL 2023, c. 124, §1 (AMD).]

2. Regular payment required. Wages must be paid on an established day or date at regular intervals made known to the employee. The interval may not be increased without written notice to the employee at least 30 days in advance of the increase.

[PL 2017, c. 219, §9 (AMD).]

3. Compensatory time agreements. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2, public agency employers and employees may enter into compensatory time overtime agreements in accordance with the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 United States Code, Section 207(o). These agreements are governed solely by federal law. For purposes of this subsection, "public agency" has the same meaning as in 29 United States Code, Section 203(x).

[PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. P, §1 (NEW); PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. P, §3 (AFF).]

4. School personnel. Employees of a school administrative unit or a school in an unorganized territory operating under Title 20-A, chapter 119 who work the school year schedule may, upon written

agreement between the employees and the school administrative unit or school in an unorganized territory, be paid for their work during the school year over 12 months or a shorter period, as provided in the written agreement. For purposes of this subsection, "written agreement" includes but is not limited to a collective bargaining agreement. A school administrative unit or school in an unorganized territory shall provide a wage payment option to school personnel who are paid on an hourly basis that allows those employees to be paid for their work during the school year over 12 months or a shorter period.

[PL 2021, c. 699, §1 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 699, §2 (AFF).]

5. Change in rate of pay. Payment of wages or salary must be made at the rate previously established by the employer, except that the employer may decrease the rate of pay, effective the next working day, if the employer gives notice to all affected employees prior to the change. When an employer has temporarily increased an employee's wage rate to comply with the prevailing wage requirements of chapter 15; the federal Davis-Bacon Act, 40 United States Code, Section 276a et seq.; or other applicable federal or state law, an employer need not provide advance notice prior to returning the employee to the employee's regular wage rate, as long as the employer is in compliance with all posting and notice provisions of the applicable law. Changes of rates of pay made under a collective bargaining agreement are exempt from this requirement.

[PL 2023, c. 124, §2 (AMD).]

6. Volunteer firefighters. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a municipal fire department may make payments owed to a volunteer firefighter at regular intervals not to exceed 6 months. For purposes of this subsection, "municipal fire department" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 1 and "volunteer firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 4.

[PL 2005, c. 126, §1 (NEW).]

7. Direct deposit of wages. An employer may not charge a fee for the payment of wages by means of direct deposit. For purposes of this section, "direct deposit" means the transfer of wages through electronic funds transfer directly into an employee's account in an accredited financial institution designated by the employee.

[PL 2021, c. 158, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 465, §2 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 790, §P1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §P3 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 156, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 18, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 103, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 126, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 219, §§8, 9 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 193, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 158, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 699, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 699, §2 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 124, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§622. Records

Every employer shall keep a true record showing the date and amount paid to each employee pursuant to section 621-A. Every employer shall keep a daily record of the time worked by each such employee, except salaried employees as described in section 663, subsection 3, paragraph K. Records required to be kept by this section must be accessible to any representative of the department at any reasonable hour. This section and section 621-A do not excuse any employer subject to section 774 from keeping the records required by that section. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §23 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 113, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 465, §3 (RPR). PL 2017, c. 219, §10 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 124, §3 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §23 (COR).

§623. Exemptions

Sections 621-A and 622 do not apply to an employee of a limited liability partnership and do not apply to an employee of an S corporation or a cooperative corporation or association if the employee is a stockholder of the corporation or association, unless the employee requests the association or corporation to pay that employee in accordance with section 621-A. Except as provided in section 621-A, subsection 3, 4 and 5, a corporation, contractor, person or partnership may not by a special contract with an employee or by any other means exempt itself from this section and sections 621-A and 622. [PL 2023, c. 124, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 40 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 113, §2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 465, §4 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §P2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 790, §P3 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 18, §2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 124, §4 (AMD).

§624. Penalties

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 113, §3 (RP).

§625. Notice of intention to quit

Any person, firm or corporation engaged in any manufacturing or mechanical business may contract with adult or minor employees to give one week's notice of intention on such employee's part to quit such employment under a penalty of forfeiture of one week's wages. In such case, the employer shall be required to give a like notice of intention to discharge the employee, and on failure, shall pay to such employee a sum equal to one week's wages. No such forfeiture shall be enforced when the leaving or discharge of the employee is for a reasonable cause. The enforcement of the penalty shall not prevent either party from recovering damages for a breach of the contract of hire.

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 452 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 545 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 512, §§1,2 (AMD).

§625-A. Severance pay

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 512, §3 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 717, §4 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 663, §156 (RP).

§625-B. Severance pay due to closing, substantial shutdown or relocation of a covered establishment

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words have the following meanings.

A. "Covered establishment" means any facility or part thereof that employs or has employed at any time in the preceding 12-month period 100 or more persons. [PL 2023, c. 52, §1 (AMD).]

A-1. "Closing" means the permanent shutdown of operations at a covered establishment. A closing may occur due to relocation or termination of the employer's business. [PL 2023, c. 52, §2 (AMD).]

B. "Director" means the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards. [PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

B-1. "Eligible employee" means any employee who:

- (1) Has been continuously employed at the covered establishment at the time of the closing or mass layoff for at least 3 years, including any period when the employee was on a leave of absence;
- (2) Has not been terminated for cause; and
- (3) Has not accepted employment at another or relocated establishment operated by the employer or remains employed at the covered establishment.

"Eligible employee" includes an employee who has voluntarily quit employment at a covered establishment to take a new job within a 30-day period prior to the date set by the employer for a closing or mass layoff in an initial notice provided by the employer under state or federal law. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Employer" means any person who directly or indirectly owns and operates a covered establishment. For purposes of this definition, a parent corporation is considered the indirect owner and operator of any covered establishment that is directly owned and operated by its corporate subsidiary. [PL 1989, c. 667, §1 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 667, §2 (AFF).]

C-1. "Gross earnings" includes all pay for regular hours, shift differentials, premiums, overtime, floating holidays, holidays, funeral leave, jury duty pay, sick pay and vacation pay earned within the last 12 months prior to the closing or mass layoff. "Gross earnings" does not include payments made under a 3rd-party benefit program, such as disability payments. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (NEW).]

C-2. "Mass layoff" means a reduction in workforce, not the result of a closing, that results in an employment loss at a covered establishment for at least 6 months of at least:

- (1) Thirty-three percent of the employees and at least 50 employees; or
- (2) Five hundred employees. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (NEW).]

D. "Person" means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association or any other entity. [PL 1979, c. 663, §157 (NEW).]

E. "Physical calamity" means any calamity such as fire, flood or other natural disaster. [PL 2009, c. 305, §1 (AMD); PL 2009, c. 305, §5 (AFF).]

F. "Relocation" means the removal of all or substantially all of operations in a covered establishment to a new location, within or without the State of Maine, 100 or more miles distant from its original location. [PL 2023, c. 52, §3 (AMD).]

G. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (RP).]

H. "Week's pay" means an amount equal to the employee's gross earnings during the 12 months previous to the date of closing or mass layoff as established by the director, divided by the number of weeks in which the employee received gross earnings during that 12-month period. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 52, §§1-3 (AMD).]

2. Severance pay. Any employer who closes or engages in a mass layoff at a covered establishment is liable to eligible employees of the covered establishment for severance pay at the rate of one week's pay for each year, and partial pay for any partial year, from the last full month of employment by the employee in that establishment. The severance pay to eligible employees is in addition to any final wage payment to the employee and must be paid within one regular pay period after the employee's last full day of work, notwithstanding any other provisions of law. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

3. Mitigation of severance pay liability. There is no liability under this section for severance pay to an eligible employee if:

A. Closing of or a mass layoff at a covered establishment is necessitated by a physical calamity or the final order of a federal, state or local government agency; [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

B. The employee is covered by, and has actually been paid under the terms of, an express contract providing for severance pay that is in an amount that is greater than the severance pay required by this section. An employer must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the director, that the severance pay provided under the terms of an express contract provides a greater benefit to the employee than provided in this section; or [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (RP).]

D. The employee has been employed by the employer for less than 3 years. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

E. [PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (RP).]

[PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

3-A. Bankruptcy proceedings. A covered establishment is not exempt from liability for severance pay under this section solely because it files a voluntary petition for bankruptcy protection under the provisions of Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 United States Code, Section 101, et seq., or because an involuntary petition is commenced against it pursuant to 11 United States Code, Section 303.

[PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (NEW).]

4. Suits by, or on behalf of, employees. Any employer who violates the provisions of this section is liable to the employee or employees affected in the amount of their unpaid severance pay. Action to recover the liability may be maintained against any employer in any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction by any one or more employees for and on behalf of that employee or those employees and any other employees similarly situated. Any labor organization may also maintain an action on behalf of its members. The court in such action shall, in addition to any judgment awarded to the plaintiff or plaintiffs, allow a reasonable attorney's fee to be paid by the defendant and costs of the action.

[PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

5. Suits by the director. The director is authorized to supervise the payment of the unpaid severance pay owing to any employee under this section. The director may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover the amount of any unpaid severance pay. The right provided by subsection 4 to bring an action by or on behalf of any employee, and of any employee to become a party plaintiff to any pending action brought and maintained under subsection 4, terminates upon the filing of a complaint by the director in an action under this subsection, unless the action is dismissed without prejudice by the director. Any sums recovered by the director on behalf of an employee pursuant to this subsection must be held in a special deposit account and must be paid, on order of the director, directly to the employee affected. Any sums thus recovered not paid to an employee because of inability to do so within a period of 3 years must be paid over to the State of Maine.

[PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

6. Notice of director. Any person proposing to relocate or close a covered establishment shall notify the director in writing not less than 90 days prior to the relocation or closing. A person initiating a mass layoff at a covered establishment shall notify the director as far in advance as practicable, and no later than within 7 days of the layoff, and shall report to the director the expected duration of the layoff and whether it is of indefinite or definite duration. The director shall, from time to time, but no less frequently than every 30 days, require the employer to report such facts as the director considers relevant to determine whether the mass layoff constitutes a closing under this section or whether there is a substantial reason to believe the affected employees will be recalled. A notification or report provided to the director pursuant to this subsection must contain all relevant information in the possession of the employer regarding a potential recall, if applicable.

[PL 2019, c. 118, §1 (AMD).]

6-A. Notice to employees and municipality. A person proposing to close a covered establishment shall notify employees and the municipal officers of the municipality where the covered establishment is located in writing not less than 90 days prior to the closing, unless this notice requirement is waived by the director.

[PL 2019, c. 118, §1 (AMD).]

7. Powers of director. In any investigation or proceeding under this section, the director has, in addition to all other powers granted by law, the authority to examine books and records of any employer affected by this section as set out in section 665, subsection 1.

[PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

8. Rules. The Department of Labor shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD).]

9. Penalties. A person that violates subsection 2 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$1,000 per violation may be adjudged. Each employee affected constitutes a separate violation. Any such fine may not be collected by the Department of Labor to the extent such collection prevents the violator from making all payments required under subsection 2.

A person that violates subsection 6 or subsection 6-A commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$500 per day may be adjudged, except that a fine may not be adjudged if the closing is necessitated by a physical calamity or the final order of a federal, state or local government agency, or if the failure to give notice is due to unforeseen circumstances. A fine imposed on a person that violates subsection 6-A may not be collected by the Department of Labor to the extent such collection prevents the violator from making all payments required under subsection 2.

[PL 2019, c. 118, §2 (AMD).]

10. Mass layoff.

[PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 663, §157 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 337 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 502, §A106 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 667, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 55, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 625, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 624, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 624, §2 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 333, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 305, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 305, §5 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 417, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 118, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 52, §§1-3 (AMD).

§626. Cessation of employment

An employee leaving employment must be paid in full no later than the employee's next established payday. Any overcompensation may be withheld if authorized under section 635 and any loan or advance against future earnings or wages may be deducted if evidenced by a statement in writing signed by the employee. Whenever the terms of employment or the employer's established practice includes provisions for paid vacations, vacation pay on cessation of employment has the same status as wages earned. All unused paid vacation accrued pursuant to the employer's vacation policy on and after January 1, 2023 must be paid to the employee on cessation of employment unless the employee is employed by an employer with 10 or fewer employees or by a public employer. If the employee's employment is governed by a collective bargaining agreement that includes provisions addressing payment of vacation pay upon cessation of employment, the collective bargaining agreement supersedes this paragraph. [PL 2021, c. 561, §1 (AMD).]

For purposes of this section, the term "employee" means any person who performs services for another in return for compensation, but does not include an independent contractor. [PL 1991, c. 162 (NEW).]

For purposes of this subchapter, a reasonable time means the earlier of either the next day on which employees would regularly be paid or a day not more than 2 weeks after the day on which the demand is made. [PL 1991, c. 162 (AMD).]

In any action for unpaid wages brought under this subchapter, the employer may not deduct as a setoff or counterclaim any money allegedly due the employer as compensation for damages caused to the employer's property by the employee, or any money allegedly owed to the employer by the employee, notwithstanding any procedural rules regarding counteractions, provided that any overcompensation may be withheld if authorized under section 635 and any loan or advance against future earnings or wages may be deducted if evidenced by a statement in writing signed by the employee, and that nothing in this section may be construed to limit or restrict in any way any rights that the employer has to recover, by a separate legal action, any money owed the employer by the employee. [PL 1991, c. 162 (AMD).]

An action for unpaid wages under this section may be brought by the affected employee or employees or by the Department of Labor on behalf of the employee or employees. An employer found in violation of this section is liable for the amount of unpaid wages and all accrued vacation pay that must be paid to the employee or employees on cessation of employment pursuant to this section. In addition, the judgment rendered in favor of the employee or employees must include a reasonable rate of interest, an additional amount equal to twice the amount of those unpaid wages and that accrued vacation pay as liquidated damages and costs of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee. [PL 2021, c. 561, §2 (AMD).]

Within 2 weeks after the sale of a business, the seller of the business shall pay employees of that business any wages earned while employed by the seller. If the terms of employment or the employer's established practice includes provisions for paid vacations, vacation pay on cessation of employment has the same status as wages earned. All unused paid vacation accrued pursuant to the employer's vacation policy on and after January 1, 2023 must be paid to the employees on cessation of employment unless the employer has 10 or fewer employees or is a public employer. If the employees' employment is governed by a collective bargaining agreement that includes provisions addressing payment of vacation pay upon cessation of employment, the collective bargaining agreement supersedes this paragraph. The seller of a business may comply with the provisions of this paragraph through a specific agreement with the buyer in which the buyer agrees to pay any wages earned by employees through employment with the seller and to honor any paid vacation earned under the seller's vacation policy. [PL 2021, c. 561, §3 (AMD).]

For the purposes of this section, "public employer" means the State, a county, a municipality, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, a school administrative unit and any other political body or its political or administrative subdivision. [PL 2021, c. 561, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 113, §4 (RPR). PL 1975, c. 623, §§37-A,37-B (AMD). PL 1983, c. 652, §1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 162 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 580, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 219, §§11, 12 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 561, §§1-4 (AMD).

§626-A. Penalties

Whoever violates any of the provisions of section 600-A, sections 621-A to 623 or section 626, 628, 628-A, 629, 629-B or 639-A is subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each violation. [PL 2025, c. 418, §1 (AMD).]

Any employer is liable to the employee or employees for the amount of unpaid wages and health benefits. Upon a judgment being rendered in favor of any employee or employees, in any action brought to recover unpaid wages or health benefits under this subchapter, such judgment includes, in addition to the unpaid wages or health benefits adjudged to be due, a reasonable rate of interest, costs of suit

including a reasonable attorney's fee, and an additional amount equal to twice the amount of unpaid wages as liquidated damages. [PL 1993, c. 648, §1 (AMD).]

Remedies for unpaid wages do not become available to the employee except as follows. If the wages are clearly due without a bona fide dispute, remedies are available to the employee 8 days after the due date for payment. If there is a bona fide dispute at the time payment is due, remedies become available to the employee 8 days after demand when the wages are, in fact, due and remain unpaid. [PL 1999, c. 465, §5 (NEW).]

The action for unpaid wages or health benefits may be brought by either the affected employee or employees or by the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor is further authorized to supervise the payment of the judgment, collect the judgment on behalf of the employee or employees and collect fines incurred through violation of this subchapter. When the Department of Labor brings an action for unpaid wages or health benefits, this action and an action to collect a civil forfeiture may both be joined in the same proceeding. [PL 1993, c. 648, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 113, §5 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 623, §37-C (AMD). PL 1975, c. 770, §114 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 652, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 648, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 465, §5 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 35, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 404, §2 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 418, §1 (AMD).

§626-B. Collective bargaining exceptions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 113, §5 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 465, §6 (RP).

§627. Assignment of wages

An assignment of wages is not valid against any other person than the parties to the assignment unless the assignment is recorded by the clerk in the office of the Secretary of State. An assignment of wages may not be valid against the employer unless the employer has actual notice of the assignment. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §14 (COR).]

An assignment of wages executed in satisfaction of a child support obligation shall have absolute priority over all previously filed orders against earnings entered pursuant to Title 14, section 3127-B and former section 3137, and over any other assignment of wages, which orders and assignments were entered after July 24, 1984. [PL 1987, c. 184, §24 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 782, §5 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 184, §24 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §14 (COR).

§628. Equal pay

This section may be known and cited as "the Maine Equal Pay Law." [PL 2023, c. 266, §1 (NEW).]

An employer may not discriminate between employees in the same establishment on the basis of sex by paying wages to any employee in any occupation in this State at a rate less than the rate at which the employer pays any employee of the opposite sex for comparable work on jobs that have comparable requirements relating to skill, effort and responsibility. An employer may not discriminate between employees in the same establishment on the basis of race by paying wages to any employee in any occupation in this State at a rate less than the rate at which the employer pays any employee of another race for comparable work on jobs that have comparable requirements relating to skill, effort and responsibility. Differentials that are paid pursuant to established seniority systems or merit increase systems or difference in the shift or time of the day worked that do not discriminate on the basis of sex

or race are not within the prohibitions in this section. An employer may not discharge or discriminate against any employee by reason of any action taken by such employee to invoke or assist in any manner the enforcement of this section. An employer may not prohibit an employee from disclosing the employee's own wages or from inquiring about or disclosing another employee's wages if the purpose of the disclosure or inquiry is to enforce the rights granted by this section. Nothing in this section creates an obligation to disclose wages. [PL 2023, c. 266, §1 (AMD).]

The Department of Labor shall annually report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters on progress made in the State to comply with this section. The report must be issued annually on Equal Pay Day as designated pursuant to Title 1, section 145. [PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. B, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 150 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 652, §4 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 304, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 688, §B7 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 29, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 35, §3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 266, §1 (AMD).

§628-A. Compensation history inquiry prohibited

1. Legislative findings and intent. The Legislature finds that despite requirements regarding equal pay having been a part of the laws of Maine since 1965, wage inequality is an ongoing issue in the State. Wage inequality causes substantial harm to the citizens and to the economy of the State. The Legislature finds that when employers base compensation decisions on compensation history of a prospective employee, it directly perpetuates this wage inequality. An employer's knowledge of a prospective employee's compensation history is directly related to the practice of basing compensation decisions on compensation history. It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the payment of equal compensation for comparable work on jobs that have comparable requirements relating to skill, effort and responsibility and to prevent unlawful employment discrimination with respect to compensation. [PL 2019, c. 35, §4 (NEW).]

2. Prohibition. An employer may not use or inquire about the compensation history of a prospective employee from the prospective employee or a current or former employer of the prospective employee unless an offer of employment that includes all terms of compensation has been negotiated and made to the prospective employee, after which the employer may inquire about or confirm the prospective employee's compensation history. [PL 2019, c. 35, §4 (NEW).]

3. Exception. This section does not apply to an employer who inquires about compensation history pursuant to any federal or state law that specifically requires the disclosure or verification of compensation history for employment purposes. [PL 2019, c. 35, §4 (NEW).]

4. Penalty. This section may be enforced pursuant to section 626-A. The civil action provided pursuant to section 626-A may be brought to enforce this section by or on behalf of a person affected by a violation of subsection 2 or by the Department of Labor on behalf of a person affected by a violation of subsection 2, and the plaintiff or plaintiffs may also seek judgment for compensatory damages. [PL 2019, c. 35, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 35, §4 (NEW).

§629. Unfair agreements

1. Work without compensation; return of compensation. A person, firm or corporation may not require or permit any person as a condition of securing or retaining employment to work without

monetary compensation or when having an agreement, oral, written or implied, that a part of such compensation should be returned to the person, firm or corporation for any reason other than for the payment of a loan, debt or advance made to the person, or for the payment of any merchandise purchased from the employer or for sick or accident benefits, or life or group insurance premiums, excluding compensation insurance, that an employee has agreed to pay, or for rent, light or water expense of a company-owned house or building. This section does not apply to work performed in agriculture or in or about a private home.

[PL 2007, c. 524, §1 (RPR).]

2. Debt. For purposes of this subchapter, "debt" means a benefit to the employee. "Debt" does not include items incurred by the employee in the course of the employee's work or dealing with customers on the employer's behalf, such as cash shortages, inventory shortages, dishonored checks, dishonored credit cards, damages to the employer's property in any form or any merchandise purchased by a customer. "Debt" does not include uniforms, personal protective equipment or other tools of the trade that are considered to be primarily for the benefit or convenience of the employer. As used in this subsection, "uniforms" means shirts or other items of clothing bearing the company name or logo. The employer may not mandate that an employee pay for the cleaning and maintenance of a uniform, but may have a written agreement whereby the employee chooses to have a payroll deduction for the cost of cleaning and maintenance.

[PL 2007, c. 524, §1 (RPR).]

3. Penalty. An employer is liable to an employee for the amount returned to the employer by that employee as prohibited in this section.

[PL 2007, c. 524, §1 (RPR).]

4. Deduction of service fees. Public employers may deduct service fees owed by an employee to a collective bargaining agent from the employee's pay, without signed authorization from the employee, and remit those fees to the bargaining agent, as long as:

A. The fee obligation arises from a lawfully executed and implemented collective bargaining agreement; and [PL 2007, c. 524, §1 (RPR).]

B. In the event a fee payor owes any arrears on the payor's fee obligations, the deduction authorized under this subsection may include an installment on a payment plan to reimburse all arrears, but may not exceed in each pay period 10% of the gross pay owed. [PL 2007, c. 524, §1 (RPR).]

[PL 2007, c. 524, §1 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 285 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 652, §5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 357, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 415, §1 (RPR). PL 2007, c. 524, §1 (RPR).

§629-A. Fringe benefits as wages

Whenever a person ceases to be employed because of the insolvency of that person's employer, and claims from the employer wages earned but not yet paid to that person, the term "wages earned" includes all fringe benefits earned by the employee that were considered in the employment contract, including plans for retirement, insurance, health care and vacations. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §15 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 448 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §15 (COR).

§629-B. Employee health benefit plans

1. Application. This section applies to health benefit plans that an employer provides or agrees to provide to the employer's employees. It does not apply to employee health benefit plans separately

provided by any employee organization or bargaining agent, regardless of any financial contribution to that plan by the employer.

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §16 (COR).]

2. Failure to implement health benefit plan. If an employer fails to implement a health benefit plan that the employer had agreed to provide to that employer's employees, the employer shall notify the employees of the failure to implement the plan as soon as possible after the employer knows that the plan will not be implemented. The employer is liable for benefits that would have been payable to a covered employee, if the health benefit plan had been in force during the period of time from the date that the employer had agreed to implement the health benefit plan, until the employer gives the employee notice of the employer's failure or inability to provide the health benefit plan.

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §17 (COR).]

3. Termination or change in carriers of a health benefit plan. If an employer terminates a health benefit plan for employees, if a health benefit plan for employees is terminated for failure to pay premium or for any other reason or if the insurance carrier administering the health benefit plan is changed, the employer shall notify the covered employees of the termination of their coverage or the change of carriers at least 10 days before the termination or the change of carriers takes effect. The employer is liable for benefits which would have been payable to a covered employee had the health benefit plan remained in force and not been terminated or the carrier changed during the period of time following the termination of or change in carrier of the health benefit plan until the employee is given notice of the termination or the change of carrier.

[PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

4. Notice. Whenever notice to an employee is required under this section, the notice must:

A. Be in writing; and [PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

B. Be delivered:

(1) In person to the employee;

(2) To the employee by the same means as and along with wages due the employee; or

(3) By mailing the notice to the employee's last known address. [PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

[PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

5. Wage withholdings. When an employer makes withholdings from employees' wages for contributions to health benefit plans, the employer shall be the trustee of the funds until they are paid to the health carrier. The employer is liable to an employee for any wages withheld for the purpose of financing an employee health benefit plan and which are not actually used for that purpose.

[PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

6. Action; parties. An action for benefits under this section may be brought by:

A. The affected employee or employees; or [PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

B. The Department of Labor on behalf of the employee or employees. [PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]
[PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

7. Lien. Whoever loses wages or medical benefits due to an employer's violation of this section shall have a lien against the employer's real estate or personal property for the full amount of the wages wrongfully withheld and the medical benefits for which the employer is liable under this section.

A. The lien shall be created by filing the statement described in this subsection in the appropriate place for filing an execution lien on real property, personal property or motor vehicles under Title 14, section 4651-A. The statement filed must contain:

(1) A statement of the amount of wages or medical benefits claimed to have been lost;

(2) The name and address of the employer and the name and address of the person claiming the loss of wages or benefits; and

(3) A recital that by virtue of the loss a lien is claimed on the real estate or personal property of the employer for the amount of the claim.

The statement must be subscribed and sworn to by the person claiming the lien or by someone on the person's behalf. Upon the filing of the statement, the amount claimed in the statement constitutes a lien upon the property for which the statement is filed. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §18 (COR).]

B. A lien created under this subsection is void 20 days after the date on which the statement described in paragraph A was filed unless, within the 20-day period, the person claiming the lien or someone on the person's behalf notifies the employer, by certified or registered mail sent to the employer's last known address, of the existence of the lien. The notice must contain the following:

(1) The fact that a lien has been filed;

(2) The date and place the lien was filed;

(3) The amount of the claim on which the lien is based;

(4) The name of the person making the claim and the person's attorney, if any, including their addresses; and

(5) The following statement: "To dissolve this lien, please contact (the person making the claim or the person's attorney). A bond may be given to the claimant to replace the lien." [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §19 (COR).]

C. A lien created under this subsection is void 90 days after the date on which the statement described in paragraph A was filed unless, within the 90-day period, an action to enforce the lien is commenced and a clerk's certificate of the commencement of the action is filed in the place where the statement is filed. Upon the filing of the clerk's certificate, the lien shall continue until a final judgment. Thereafter, extensions of the lien shall be governed by the provisions for extensions of attachments in Title 14, section 4601. [PL 1987, c. 231 (NEW).]

D. An employer may, at any time after receiving notice of a lien under paragraph B, give bond, with sufficient sureties, in the amount of the claim to the person claiming the lien. Within 7 days of receipt of the bond, the person claiming the lien or someone on the person's behalf shall discharge the lien. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §20 (COR).]

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §§18-20 (COR).]

8. Exceptions. The following exceptions apply.

A. An employer is not liable under this section for benefits which would have been payable under an employee health benefit plan if the failure to provide the notice required by subsection 2 or 3 is due to circumstances beyond the control of the employer. [PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

B. This section does not apply to any termination of or failure to implement an employee health benefit plan which results from or occurs during a strike or lockout. Section 634 applies to the termination of any employee health benefit plan during a strike. [PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

[PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 660 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 231 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §§16-20 (COR).

§630. Written statement of reason for termination of employment

An employer shall, upon written request of the affected employee, give that employee the written reasons for the termination of that person's employment. An employer who fails to satisfy this request

within 15 days of receiving it may be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500. An employee may bring an action in the District Court or the Superior Court for such equitable relief, including an injunction, as the court may consider to be necessary and proper. The employer may also be required to reimburse the employee for the costs of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee if the employee receives a judgment in the employee's favor. This section does not apply to public employees in proceedings governed by Title 1, section 405. [PL 1997, c. 356, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 420 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 175 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 356, §1 (AMD).

§631. Employee right to review personnel file

The employer shall, upon written request from an employee or former employee, provide the employee, former employee or duly authorized representative with an opportunity to review and copy the employee's personnel file if the employer has a personnel file for that employee. The reviews and copying must take place at the location where the personnel files are maintained and during normal office hours unless, at the employer's discretion, a more convenient time and location for the employee are arranged. In each calendar year, the employer shall provide, at no cost to the employee, one copy of the entire personnel file when requested by the employee or former employee and, when requested by the employee or former employee, one copy of all the material added to the personnel file after the copy of the entire file was provided. The cost of copying any other material requested during that calendar year is paid by the person requesting the copy. For the purpose of this section, a personnel file includes, but is not limited to, any formal or informal employee evaluations and reports relating to the employee's character, credit, work habits, compensation and benefits and nonprivileged medical records or nurses' station notes relating to the employee that the employer has in the employer's possession. Records in a personnel file may be maintained in any form including paper, microfiche or electronic form. The employer shall take adequate steps to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of these records. An employer maintaining records in a form other than paper shall have available to the employee, former employee or duly authorized representative the equipment necessary to review and copy the personnel file. Any employer who, following a request pursuant to this section, without good cause fails to provide an opportunity for review and copying of a personnel file, within 10 days of receipt of that request, is subject to a civil forfeiture of \$25 for each day that a failure continues. The total forfeiture may not exceed \$500. An employee, former employee or the Department of Labor may bring an action in the District Court or the Superior Court for such equitable relief, including an injunction, as the court may consider to be necessary and proper. The employer may also be required to reimburse the employee, former employee or the Department of Labor for costs of suit including a reasonable attorney's fee if the employee or the department receives a judgment in the employee's or department's favor, respectively. For the purposes of this section, the term "nonprivileged medical records or nurses' station notes" means all those materials that have not been found to be protected from discovery or disclosure in the course of civil litigation under the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 26, the Maine Rules of Evidence, Article V or similar rules adopted by the Workers' Compensation Board or other administrative tribunals. [PL 2003, c. 58, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 694, §2 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 66, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 178 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 105 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 885, §D2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 420, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 235, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 58, §1 (AMD).

§632. Fund for unpaid wages

1. Fund established. There is established the Maine Wage Assurance Fund to be used by the Bureau of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor for the purpose of assuring that all former employees of employers within the State receive payment for wages and liquidated damages, in an amount equal to the wages, for a maximum of 4 weeks for the work they have performed. The

Legislature intends that payment of earned wages and liquidated damages from the fund be limited to those cases when the employer has terminated the employer's business and there are no assets of the employer from which earned wages may be paid or when the employer has filed under any provision of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. An officer or director in the case of a corporation, partner in the case of a partnership or owner in the case of a sole proprietorship may not be considered an employee for purposes of this section.

[PL 2025, c. 192, §1 (AMD).]

2. Administration. The fund must be administered by the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards. Applications for payment from the fund and disbursements from the fund must be in accordance with rules adopted by the director. The State must be subrogated to any claims against an employer for unpaid wages and liquidated damages, in an amount equal to the wages, by an employee who has received payment from the fund. Subrogation to these claims must be to the extent of payment from the fund to the employee.

[PL 2025, c. 192, §1 (AMD).]

3. Amount in fund. The Maine Wage Assurance Fund is a nonlapsing, revolving fund limited to a maximum of \$200,000. All money collected from an employer pursuant to a claim for unpaid wages and liquidated damages, in an amount equal to the wages, by an employee who has received payment from the fund, or by the State as the employee's subrogee, is credited to the fund.

The fund must be established and augmented periodically as necessary.

Money in the fund not needed currently to meet claims against the fund must be deposited with the Treasurer of State to be credited to the fund and may be invested in such manner as is provided for by statute. Interest received on that investment must be credited to the Maine Wage Assurance Fund.

[PL 2025, c. 192, §1 (AMD).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §632. Information to be furnished to railroad employees (As enacted by PL 1979, c. 287 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 633)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 202, §1 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 287 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 663, §158 (RAL). PL 1983, c. 172 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 502, §A107 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 25, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §21 (COR). PL 2025, c. 192, §1 (AMD).

§632-A. Fund for recovered wages

1. Fund established. The Wage Recovery Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund within the bureau. The purpose of the fund is to facilitate payments related to unpaid wages, unpaid health benefits, liquidated damages or interest owed to employees or former employees of an employer when the Department of Labor receives payments from an employer in accordance with a settlement agreement or a judgment on behalf of affected employees or former employees.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZ, §1 (NEW).]

2. Administration. The fund is administered by the director. Payment of unpaid wages, unpaid health benefits, liquidated damages or interest to affected individuals may be made only to the extent that the Department of Labor receives payment from the employer in accordance with a settlement agreement or a judgment. The department is not liable for payments to affected individuals if the department does not receive the funds from the employer.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZ, §1 (NEW).]

3. Education. As part of its settlement agreements, the Department of Labor may include a provision for payment of funds toward education and public messaging regarding the State's labor laws. Funds deposited in the Wage Recovery Fund that are not required for the payment of unpaid wages,

unpaid health benefits, liquidated damages or interest may also be used for such education and public messaging.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZ, §1 (NEW).]

4. Fund balances. Amounts in the Wage Recovery Fund do not lapse and must be carried forward to be used for the same purposes. Interest earned on the balance in the fund must be credited to the Wage Recovery Fund.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZ, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZ, §1 (NEW).

§633. Information to be furnished to railroad employees

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 632)

1. Wage statement. A railroad corporation in the State shall furnish each employee of that corporation with a statement with every payment of wages to that employee, listing accrued total earnings and taxes to date, and further furnish that employee at the same time with a separate listing of that employee's daily wages and how they were computed.

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §22 (COR).]

2. Coverage. Only railroad employees who are operating personnel working on a train are covered under this section.

[PL 1979, c. 663, §158 (RAL).]

3. Penalty. Any person, firm or corporation violating this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$100 may be adjudged for each offense.

[PL 1979, c. 663, §158 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 663, §158 (RAL). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §22 (COR).

§634. Continuation of health insurance coverage during strike; notice

1. Employer's duty. During a strike, an employer may not cancel any policy of group health insurance issued pursuant to Title 24-A, section 2804 until the employer has first notified insured members that the policy is to be canceled.

[PL 1981, c. 354 (NEW).]

2. Notice. The notice requirement contained in subsection 1 is satisfied if:

A. The employee actually receives the written notice; [PL 1981, c. 354 (NEW).]

B. The notice is mailed to the employee at an address which the employer reasonably believes is current; [PL 1981, c. 354 (NEW).]

C. The notice is delivered to the employee by the same means as and along with wages due the employee; or [PL 1981, c. 354 (NEW).]

D. Timely notice is given to the collective bargaining agent of the employee. [PL 1981, c. 354 (NEW).]

[PL 1981, c. 354 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 354 (NEW).

§635. Overcompensation by employer

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Net amount" means the amount of money due an employee as compensation after any deductions or withholdings other than an employer's withholding for the purpose of recovering any overcompensation. [PL 1989, c. 804 (NEW).]

A-1. "Employer" means a person in this State that employs individuals and includes the State and political subdivisions of the State. "Employer" includes a person acting in the interest of an employer directly or indirectly. [PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Overcompensation" means any compensation paid to an employee that is greater than that to which the employee is entitled under the compensation system established by the employer, but does not include fringe benefits, paid leave, awards, bonuses, settlements or insurance proceeds in respect to or in lieu of compensation, expense reimbursements, commissions or draws or advances against compensation. [PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (AMD).]

C. "Paid leave" has the same meaning as in section 636, subsection 1, paragraph C. [PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (AMD).]

2. Recovery of overcompensation; limitations. An employer who has overcompensated an employee through employer error may not withhold more than 5% of the net amount of any subsequent pay without the employee's written permission, except that, if the employee voluntarily terminates employment, the employer may deduct the full amount of overcompensation from any wages due. An employer who has overcompensated an employee through employer error may not recover more than the amount of overcompensation paid to that employee in the 3 years preceding the date of discovery of the overcompensation.
[PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (AMD).]

3. Violation. If an employer with over 25 employees violates this section, that employer forfeits any claim to the overcompensation.

If an employer with 25 or fewer employees knows of the limitations established by subsection 2 and violates this section, that employer forfeits any claim to the overcompensation. An employer of 25 or fewer employees who does not know of the limitations established by subsection 2 and who violates this section shall return all money withheld in excess of that permitted under subsection 2 within 3 days of written or oral demand by the employee, or forfeits any claim to the overcompensation.
[PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (AMD).]

4. Application. This section is applied as follows.

A. An employer has the burden of proof, except that, if the overcompensation amounts to less than 15% of the correct net amount of the employee's compensation, the employer must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the employee knowingly accepted the overcompensation. [PL 1989, c. 804 (NEW).]

B. If an employee knowingly accepts the overcompensation, this section does not apply. [PL 1989, c. 804 (NEW).]

C. This section, except for the forfeiture provisions in subsection 3, does not limit or affect an employer's general civil remedies against an employee or an employee's general civil remedies against an employer. [PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 804 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 425, §1 (AMD).

§636. Family sick leave

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employer" means a public or private employer with 25 or more employees. [PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Immediate family member" means an employee's child, spouse or parent. [PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Paid leave" means time away from work by an employee for which the employee receives compensation, and is limited to sick time, vacation time, compensatory time and leave that is provided as an aggregate amount for use at the discretion of the employee for any of these same purposes. "Paid leave" does not include paid short-term or long-term disability, catastrophic leave or similar types of benefits. [PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

2. Use of paid leave. If an employer, under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement or employment policy, provides paid leave, then the employer shall allow an employee to use the paid leave for the care of an immediate family member who is ill as provided in this section.

[PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

3. Election of time; amount; process. An employer may adopt a policy limiting the number of hours of paid leave taken under this section, but in no case may the number of hours allowed be fewer than 40 hours for a 12-month period. An employee is not entitled under this section to use paid leave until that leave has been earned. An employee who receives more than one type of paid leave may elect which type and the amount of each of those types of paid leave to use, except that the employee's election may be limited by a bona fide employment policy as long as the policy is uniformly applied to all employees at that workplace. An employer may require notice or verification of illness for leave taken pursuant to this section if such notice or verification is required when an employee takes leave because of the employee's own illness. An employer may require an employee to specify that leave is taken pursuant to this section.

[PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

4. Relationship to collective bargaining. This section applies to employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement unless the agreement provides paid leave benefits that are equal to or greater than those provided in this section.

[PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

5. Prohibited actions by employer. An employer may not discharge, demote, suspend, discipline or otherwise discriminate against an employee or threaten to take any of these actions against an employee who exercises rights granted under this section or who files a complaint or testifies or assists in an action brought against the employer for a violation of this section. Nothing in this section prohibits an employer from taking employment action against an employee for taking leave that is not protected by this section or other applicable law.

[PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

6. Application of family medical leave requirements. For purposes of applying family medical leave requirements, the employer shall treat leave under this section in the same manner as the employer treats leave for a sick employee.

[PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

7. Enforcement; rules. The Department of Labor shall adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions of this section, including rules regarding the receipt, investigation and prosecution of complaints brought under this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 455, §1 (NEW).

§637. Earned paid leave

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employment" has the same meaning as in section 1043, subsection 11, but does not include employment in a seasonal industry as defined in section 1251. [PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

B. "Employer" has the same meaning as in section 1043, subsection 9. [PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

C. "Employee" means a person engaged in employment. [PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

2. Earned paid leave. An employer that employs more than 10 employees in the usual and regular course of business for more than 120 days in any calendar year shall permit each employee to earn paid leave based on the employee's base pay as provided in this section.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

3. Accrual. An employee is entitled to earn one hour of paid leave from a single employer for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours in one year of employment. Accrual of leave begins at the start of employment, but the employer is not required to permit use of the leave before the employee has been employed by that employer for 120 days during a one-year period. Accrued and unused hours of earned paid leave from the previous year of employment must be available for use by an employee in the year of employment immediately following the previous year. Accrued and unused hours of earned paid leave carried forward from the previous year of employment may not reduce the total amount of hours of paid leave an employee is entitled to earn in the year of employment immediately following the previous year, up to 40 hours or the accrual limit specified in the employer's policy governing paid leave, whichever is higher. The Department of Labor shall enforce this subsection within existing resources using strategic enforcement.

[PL 2025, c. 438, §1 (AMD).]

4. Rate. An employee while taking earned leave must be paid at least the same base rate of pay that the employee received immediately prior to taking earned leave and must receive the same benefits as those provided under established policies of the employer pertaining to other types of paid leave.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

5. Notice. Absent an emergency, illness or other sudden necessity for taking earned leave, an employee shall give reasonable notice to the employee's supervisor of the employee's intent to use earned leave. Use of leave must be scheduled to prevent undue hardship on the employer as reasonably determined by the employer.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

6. Benefits. The taking of earned leave under this section may not result in the loss of any employee benefits accrued before the date on which the leave commenced and may not affect the employee's right to health insurance benefits on the same terms and conditions as applicable to similarly situated employees. Nothing in this section prevents an employer from providing a benefit greater than that provided by this section.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

7. Enforcement. The bureau has the exclusive authority pursuant to section 42 to enforce this section, except that nothing in this section prohibits the parties to a collective bargaining agreement from agreeing to also address any violation of this section through the dispute resolution process set forth in that collective bargaining agreement.

[PL 2021, c. 569, §1 (AMD).]

8. Penalties. Penalties for violations of this section are the same as those provided in section 53.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

9. Preemption. A municipality or other political subdivision may not enact an ordinance or other rule purporting to have the force of law under its home rule or other authority regulating earned paid leave.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

10. Rules. The Department of Labor shall adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions of this section, including rules regarding the receipt, investigation and prosecution of complaints brought under this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

11. Exception. This section does not apply to an employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement during the period between January 1, 2021 and the expiration of the agreement.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

12. Reporting. Beginning January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Department of Labor shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters on progress made in the State to comply with this section.

[PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §637. Leave for appointments for veterans as enacted by PL 2019, c. 350, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 638

REVISOR'S NOTE: §637. Wage theft remedies as enacted by PL 2019, c. 461, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 639

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 156, §3 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 156, §4 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 569, §1 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 438, §1 (AMD).

§638. Leave for appointments for veterans

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 637)

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employer" means a public or private employer. [PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).]

B. "Paid leave" has the same meaning as in section 636, subsection 1, paragraph C. [PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).]

C. "Veteran" means an employee who is a veteran, as defined in section 877, subsection 3. [PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).]
[PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).]

2. Leave. Pursuant to this subsection, an employer shall allow a veteran to take time away from work to attend a scheduled appointment at a medical facility operated by the United States Department

of Veterans Affairs, as long as the veteran gives the employer notice of the appointment as soon as reasonably possible.

A. If an employer provides paid leave, the employer shall allow a veteran to use available paid leave to attend a scheduled appointment at a medical facility operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. If a veteran has used all available paid leave, the employer shall grant unpaid leave to the veteran to attend the appointment. [PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).]

B. If an employer does not provide paid leave, the employer shall grant unpaid leave to a veteran to attend a scheduled appointment at a medical facility operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. [PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).]
[PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 350, §1 (NEW). RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §30 (RAL).

§639. Wage theft remedies

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 637)

1. Wage theft; defined. For the purposes of this section, "wage theft" means a violation of section 621-A, 622, 623, 626, 629, 629-A or 664.

[PL 2019, c. 461, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).]

2. Injunction. In addition to other remedies allowed by this chapter, the Department of Labor or any person or persons injured by an unlawful wage payment practice or policy that causes direct harm to workers may bring an action for injunctive relief to enjoin further wage theft. If a party seeking an injunction prevails, the employer is liable to pay the cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee. [PL 2019, c. 461, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).]

3. Issuance of a cease operations order. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee may order an employer to cease its business operations if the commissioner or the commissioner's designee determines that the employer has committed wage theft, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee has previously determined the employer's practice or policy resulted in wage theft on more than one occasion or within the last 12 months and:

A. The practice or policy resulting in the wage theft affects 10 or more employees; or [RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).]

B. The wage theft is equal to or greater than twice an employee's average weekly wage. [PL 2019, c. 461, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).]

The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall provide the employer with notice and an opportunity to be heard 3 business days before the effective date of an order issued pursuant to this subsection. The issuance of a cease operations order constitutes final agency action. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall issue the cease operations order as narrowly as is determined necessary. Any person who is aggrieved by the imposition of a cease operations order has 10 days from the date of its service to make a request to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee for a hearing. The hearing must be held within 7 business days of the request. The hearing officer shall issue a decision within 5 business days of the hearing.

If an employer refuses to obey an order to cease operations, that order may be enforced in Superior Court.

[PL 2019, c. 461, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).]

4. Stay of cease operations order. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee shall stay the issuance of a cease operations order under subsection 3 if the employer provides evidence

acceptable to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee that the employer has paid the employee or employees for the amount of unpaid wages and benefits owed and has implemented wage payment practices and policies that comply with this chapter.

[PL 2019, c. 461, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).]

5. Rules. The Commissioner of Labor shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2019, c. 461, §1 (NEW); RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 461, §1 (NEW). RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §31 (RAL).

§639-A. Minimum pay for reporting to work

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employee" has the same meaning as in section 663, subsection 3, but does not include an individual employed in a seasonal industry as defined in section 1251, subsection 1 or an employee of a public employer, as defined in section 626, who is covered by a collective bargaining agreement. [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

B. "Employer" means an employer, as defined in section 1043, subsection 9, that employs at least 10 employees in the usual and regular course of business for more than 120 days in a calendar year. [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

2. Pay for reporting to work. On any day an employee reports to work at the request of an employer and the employer cancels or reduces the number of hours in an employee's scheduled shift, the employee must be paid the lesser of:

A. Two hours of pay at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay; and [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

B. The total pay for the shift for which the employee was initially scheduled. [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

3. Notice. An employer that makes a documented good faith effort to notify an employee not to report to work is not liable to pay wages under subsection 2. If the employee reports to work after the employer's attempt to notify the employee has been unsuccessful or if the employer is prevented from making notification for any reason, the employee shall perform whatever duties are assigned by the employer at the time the employee reports to work, as long as the employee is physically able to perform those duties. If the employer does not have any duties to assign to the employee, the employer shall pay the employee the wages under subsection 2.

[PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

4. Exception. The provisions of this section do not apply if an employee is not required to work or is unable to work due to:

A. Adverse weather conditions; [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

B. A natural disaster or civil emergency; [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

C. An illness or medical condition of the employee; or [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

D. A workplace injury of the employee. [PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

5. Rules. The Department of Labor may adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 418, §2 (NEW).

§640. Public employee voluntary payroll deductions for certain insurance

Upon a public employee's written request, a public employer may deduct voluntary payroll deductions designated in writing by the employee to the employer for disability insurance and life insurance offered in conjunction with the employee's membership in an employee organization recognized by the employer or designated by a collective bargaining agreement. The employee may rescind the authorization for the deductions by giving the employer 30 days' written notice. [PL 2021, c. 102, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 102, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 2-A

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS IN THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY AND FARMING

§641. Rule of construction

This subchapter must be liberally construed in light of the purposes of the law to ensure a safe working environment and safe transportation for forestry workers and migrant and seasonal farm workers and to prevent unfair competition in the marketplace by businesses whose practices would undermine safety and other employment standards. [PL 2009, c. 201, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 201, §1 (AMD).

§642. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

1. Bureau. "Bureau" means the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards.
[PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

2. Code of Federal Regulations. "Code of Federal Regulations" means the Code of Federal Regulations as of January 1, 2008.
[PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (AMD).]

3. Employer. "Employer" means:

A. With regard to a forestry worker, a person or entity that suffers or permits any forestry worker to work; and [PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (NEW).]

B. With regard to a migrant and seasonal farm worker, a farm labor contractor. [PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (AMD).]

3-A. Farm labor contractor. "Farm labor contractor" means a person or entity that employs migrant and seasonal farm workers and that is required to register with the United States Department of Labor under the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. [PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (NEW).]

4. Forestry worker. "Forestry worker" means a person employed on a temporary or seasonal basis to perform reforestation activities, including, but not limited to, precommercial thinning, tree planting and brush clearing. [PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (AMD).]

5. Migrant and seasonal farm worker. "Migrant and seasonal farm worker" means a person employed by a farm labor contractor on a temporary or seasonal basis to perform farm labor. [PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (NEW).]

6. Worker. "Worker" means a forestry worker or migrant and seasonal farm worker. [PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 201, §2 (AMD).

§643. Transportation of workers

1. Requirement. An employer shall provide safe transportation for workers between the workers' lodgings and work sites each day at no cost to the workers.

A. A vehicle used to transport workers must meet the standards set forth in 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 500.105, regardless of the number of miles traveled or the type of vehicle used, and must include a working seat belt for each worker being transported. Any vehicle used to transport workers may not have any apparatus attached to the rear of the vehicle that interferes with the operation of the rear door. Equipment or any other materials that interfere with the operation of any doors or windows may not be attached to or stored in the vehicle. The number of occupants in any vehicle, other than a bus, may not exceed the manufacturer's design specifications except in no instance may it exceed 12 at any time. In the case of a 15-passenger van, compliance with this standard must be achieved by removal of the seating immediately behind the rear axle, resulting in the number of passengers in the vehicle at any one time not exceeding 11. Attachments are not allowed on the roofs of vans for the purpose of carrying gear. [PL 2009, c. 201, §3 (AMD).]

B. Any person driving a vehicle used to transport workers must meet the driver qualifications and must follow the standards for driving set forth in 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 500.105. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

C. Each vehicle used to transport workers must be equipped with a first aid kit consistent with 29 Code of Federal Regulations, section 1910.266, Appendix A and communications equipment capable of providing the most immediate access to emergency medical services. A vehicle equipped with such equipment and a driver must be available at or near the work site at all times during the work day. Emergency action plans, written in easily understandable English and in the language of the worker crews, must be developed and maintained for each job site. Plans must include information on how to transport injured workers to the nearest emergency facility and how to direct emergency workers to the location of an injured worker who can not be moved. [PL 2009, c. 201, §3 (AMD).]

D. An employer must make reasonable efforts to limit the driving hours of any one driver in a day and to reduce driver fatigue generally. Hours of operation must also comply with the limitations set forth in 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 500.105. Except in an emergency, a worker who engages in reforestation or agricultural labor activities may not operate a vehicle more than 2 hours per day.

For purposes of this paragraph, "agricultural labor" has the same meaning as in section 1043, subsection 1. [PL 2009, c. 201, §3 (AMD).]

E. A vehicle used to transport workers must be insured for at least the same minimum liability insurance as is required by the State. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

F. Each employer shall provide to each worker and to the Department of Labor a copy of off-road driving safety standards consistent with those promoted in relevant safe driver training courses. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

G. Each contract regarding or resulting in the employment of any worker must include a provision requiring the contractor who employs such workers to abide by this subchapter. [PL 2009, c. 201, §3 (AMD).]

[PL 2009, c. 201, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 201, §3 (AMD).

§643-A. First aid requirements

An employer must comply with the standards for first aid set forth in 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1910.151 (2008). [PL 2009, c. 201, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 201, §4 (NEW).

§643-B. Farm labor contractor registration

Each farm labor contractor employing migrant and seasonal farm workers shall file a copy of its federal registration under the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act with the bureau. The filing must include in-state contact information for the farm labor contractor or the farm labor contractor's representative. [PL 2009, c. 201, §5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 201, §5 (NEW).

§644. Prohibition against discrimination and retaliation

An employer or other person may not intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, discharge, fail to recruit, fail to rehire or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against a worker because the worker has: [PL 2009, c. 201, §6 (AMD).]

1. Proceedings. Made, filed, instituted, caused to be instituted or participated in any way in any proceeding under or related to this subchapter;
[PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

2. Exercise of rights or protections. Exercised in any way, on the worker's own behalf or on behalf of others, any right or protection afforded by this subchapter;
[PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

3. Discussions. Discussed any matter that is a subject of or is related in any way to this subchapter, or any other lawful matter, with any other person, including, but not limited to, that worker's employer or the employer's agent or employee; or
[PL 2009, c. 201, §7 (AMD).]

4. Complaints. Made, filed, instituted, caused to be instituted or participated in any way in any lawful complaint, lawsuit or other proceeding of any kind.
[PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 201, §§6, 7 (AMD).

§645. Waiver of rights prohibited

Any agreement by a worker purporting to waive or modify any of the worker's rights under this subchapter is void as contrary to public policy. [PL 2009, c. 201, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 201, §8 (AMD).

§646. Violations; enforcement

1. Joint and several liability. If more than one person or entity is an employer of the same worker or group of workers, each such person or entity is jointly and severally liable for all violations of this subchapter.

[PL 2009, c. 201, §9 (AMD).]

2. Enforcement by bureau. The bureau may inspect vehicles subject to this subchapter and used to transport workers and may enforce compliance with this subchapter in accordance with this section.

A. A duly designated officer of the bureau may enter into any structure or upon any real property in or on which a vehicle subject to this subchapter and used to transport workers is found in accordance with the process established in section 587 in order to determine compliance with this subchapter and any rules adopted to implement this subchapter. [PL 2009, c. 201, §10 (AMD).]

B. Upon the written request of the bureau, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety shall provide any technical services that may be required by the bureau to assist with inspections and enforcement of this subchapter. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 201, §10 (AMD).]

3. Civil violation. An employer who violates this subchapter or any of the rules adopted to implement this subchapter commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for each violation, payable to the State, may be adjudged.

A. Each day that a violation remains uncorrected following notice to the employer may be counted as a separate violation. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

B. The bureau may direct an employer to correct any violations in a manner and within a time frame that the bureau determines appropriate to ensure compliance with this subchapter and with the rules adopted to implement this subchapter or to protect the public health. Failure to correct violations within a time frame established by the bureau constitutes a separate violation subject to fine. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

C. The Attorney General may bring an action to seek fines under this subsection, to enjoin violations of this subchapter and for any other available remedy. [PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 616, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 201, §§9, 10 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2-B

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE AND RELATED PROVISIONS

§651. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

1. Employ. "Employ" means to suffer or permit to work.
[PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

2. Employee. "Employee" means an individual employed to perform agricultural labor as defined in the Employment Security Law and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, except that members of the family of the employer who reside with and are dependent upon the employer are exempt from this subchapter.
[PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

3. Employer. "Employer" means a person or entity that directly or indirectly engages the services or permits the work of an individual employed to perform agricultural labor or an individual employed in certain activities related to agriculture.
[PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

4. Wages. "Wages" means compensation paid to an employee in the form of legal tender of the United States and checks on banks convertible into cash on demand and includes the reasonable cost to the employer that furnishes the employee board or lodging. "Wages" also includes compensation paid through a direct deposit system, automated teller machine card or other means of electronic transfer as long as the employee can make an initial withdrawal of the entire net pay without additional cost to the employee or the employee can choose another means of payment that involves no additional cost to the employee.
[PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).

§652. Minimum hourly wage

An employer may not employ an employee at a rate less than the rates required by this section. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

Beginning January 1, 2026, the minimum hourly wage for an employee is \$14.65 per hour, increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living, measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of 2025 over August of 2024 in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum hourly wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. On January 1, 2027 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum hourly wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal minimum hourly wage is increased in excess of the minimum hourly wage in effect under this section, the minimum hourly wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum hourly wage, and must be increased in accordance with this section thereafter. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).

§653. Records; retention, examination, copies

An employer subject to this subchapter shall keep a true and accurate record of the hours worked by each employee and of the wages paid, such records to be preserved by the employer for a period of at least 3 years, and shall furnish to each employee with each payment of wages a statement that clearly shows the date of the pay period, the hours, total earnings and itemized deductions. An employer making payment by direct deposit or other means of electronic transfer shall provide each employee with an accurate record of the transfer, including the date of the pay period, the hours, total earnings and itemized deductions, when the transfer is made. If the record is provided in an electronic format, the employer shall provide a method by which the employee may have ready access to the information and print it without cost to the employee. The director or the director's authorized representative may, and upon written complaint shall, enter the place of business or employment of an employer or employee for the purpose of examining and inspecting such records and copy any such records as the director or the director's authorized representative determines necessary or appropriate. All information received is considered confidential and may not be divulged to any other person or agency, except as may be necessary for the enforcement of this subchapter. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).

§654. Enforcement

An employer is liable to an employee for the amount of any unpaid minimum hourly wages under this subchapter. Upon a judgment being rendered in favor of an employee in any action brought to recover unpaid minimum hourly wages under this subchapter, the judgment must include, in addition to the unpaid minimum hourly wages adjudged to be due, an additional amount equal to the unpaid minimum hourly wages as liquidated damages and costs of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

An employer that violates this subchapter is subject to a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$200. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

An employer that discharges or in any other manner discriminates against an employee because the employee makes a complaint to the director or to a district attorney concerning a violation of this subchapter is subject to a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$200. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

The Department of Labor has exclusive authority to bring an action for unpaid wages on behalf of an employee or employees under this section. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

This section may not be construed to restrict or impair any existing right available to an employee under any other section of this chapter. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

In the event of a violation of this subchapter, the Attorney General may bring an action in the Superior Court to enjoin further violation of this subchapter. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).

§655. Unfair contracts

An employer may not be exempted from this subchapter by special contract with an employee or by any other means. [PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2025, c. 232, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 3

MINIMUM WAGES

§661. Declaration of policy

It is the declared public policy of the State of Maine that workers employed in any occupation should receive wages sufficient to provide adequate maintenance and to protect their health, and to be fairly commensurate with the value of the services rendered.

§662. Coverage

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 410, §1 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 525 (RP).

§663. Definitions

Terms used in this subchapter shall be construed as follows, unless a different meaning is clearly apparent from the language or context:

1. Director. "Director," the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards;
[PL 1981, c. 168, §26 (AMD).]

2. Employ. "Employ," to suffer or permit to work;

3. Employee. "Employee," any individual employed or permitted to work by an employer but the following individuals shall be exempt from this subchapter:

A. Any individual employed in agriculture as defined in the Maine Employment Security Law and the Federal Unemployment Insurance Tax Law, except when that individual performs services for or on a farm with over 300,000 laying birds; [PL 1975, c. 717, §5 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2007, c. 640, §2 (RP).]

C. Those employees whose earnings are derived in whole or in part from sales commissions and whose hours and places of employment are not substantially controlled by the employer; [PL 1967, c. 466, §1 (AMD).]

D. Any individual employed as a taxicab driver;

E. [PL 2007, c. 640, §3 (RP).]

F. Those employees who are counselors or junior counselors or counselors-in-training at organized camps licensed under Title 22, section 2495 and those employees of organized camps and similar seasonal recreation programs not requiring such licensure that are operated as or by nonprofit organizations who are under 18 years of age; [PL 2009, c. 120, §1 (RPR); PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §22 (RPR).]

F-1. [PL 1967, c. 466, §2 (RP).]

G. Any individual employed in the catching, taking, propagating, harvesting, cultivating or farming of any kind of fish, shellfish, crustacea, sponges, seaweeds or other aquatic forms of animal and vegetable life, or in the first processing, canning or packing such marine products at sea as incident to, or in conjunction with, such fishing operations, including the going to and returning from work and including employment in the loading and unloading when performed by any such employee; [PL 1965, c. 410, §2 (AMD).]

H. [PL 2017, c. 219, §13 (RP).]

I. Any home worker who is not subject to any supervision or control by any person whomsoever, and who buys raw material and makes and completes any article and sells the same to any person, even though it is made according to specifications and the requirements of some single purchaser;

J. Members of the family of the employer who reside with and are dependent upon the employer; [PL 2009, c. 529, §1 (AMD).]

K. A salaried employee who works in a bona fide executive, administrative or professional capacity and whose regular compensation, when converted to an annual rate, exceeds 3000 times the State's minimum hourly wage or the annualized rate established by the United States Department of Labor under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, whichever is higher; and [PL 2009, c. 529, §2 (AMD).]

L. A person who is a sentenced prisoner in actual execution of a term of incarceration imposed in this State or any other jurisdiction for a criminal offense, except a prisoner who is:

- (1) Employed by a private employer;
- (2) Participating in a work release program;
- (4) Employed in a program established under a certification issued by the United States Department of Justice under 18 United States Code, Section 1761;
- (5) Employed while in a supervised community confinement program pursuant to Title 34-A, section 3036-A; or
- (6) Employed while in a community confinement monitoring program pursuant to Title 30-A, section 1659-A. [PL 2013, c. 133, §20 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 219, §13 (AMD).]

4. Occupation. "Occupation," an industry, trade or business or branch thereof or class of work therein in which workers are gainfully employed;

5. Wages. "Wages" paid to any employee includes compensation paid to the employee in the form of legal tender of the United States and checks on banks convertible into cash on demand and includes the reasonable cost to the employer who furnishes the employee board or lodging. "Wages" also includes compensation paid through a direct deposit system, automated teller machine card or other means of electronic transfer as long as the employee either can make an initial withdrawal of the entire net pay without additional cost to the employee or the employee can choose another means of payment that involves no additional cost to the employee; [PL 2005, c. 89, §1 (AMD).]

6. Resort establishment. [PL 1975, c. 623, §38 (RP).]

7. Minimum wage for firefighters. Members of municipal firefighting departments, other than volunteer or call-departments, who are paid salaries or regular wages are deemed to be employees within the meaning of this section and are covered by this subchapter. Firefighters' wages may be paid by the municipality based upon the average number of hours worked during any one work cycle, which may not exceed 12 weeks in duration. However, 1 1/2 times the hourly rate may not be paid for all work done over 48 hours under this subsection; [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §23 (COR).]

8. Service employee. "Service employee" means any employee engaged in an occupation in which the employee customarily and regularly receives more than:

- A. Prior to January 1, 2022, \$30 a month in tips; [PL 2021, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Beginning January 1, 2022, \$100 a month in tips; or [PL 2021, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]
- C. Beginning January 1, 2023, \$175 a month in tips. [PL 2021, c. 288, §1 (NEW).]

On January 1, 2024, and every January 1st thereafter, the monetary amount over which an employee is considered a service employee under this subsection must be increased by the same percentage of the

increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living is measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the increase rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1.

[PL 2021, c. 288, §1 (AMD).]

9. Hotel.

[PL 2017, c. 219, §14 (RP).]

10. Public employees. "Public employees" are considered employees within the meaning of this section and include any person whose wages are paid by a state or local public employer, including the State, a county, a municipality, the University of Maine System, a school administrative unit and any other political body or its political or administrative subdivision. "Public employee" does not include any officer or official elected by popular vote or appointed to office pursuant to law for a specified term or any person defined in subsection 7.

[PL 1985, c. 779, §69 (AMD).]

11. Automobile salesperson. "Automobile salesperson" means a person who is primarily engaged in selling automobiles or trucks as an employee of an establishment primarily engaged in the business of selling these vehicles to the ultimate purchaser. "Automobile salesperson" includes a person who is primarily engaged in assisting in the financing and providing of insurance products to the ultimate purchaser.

[PL 2007, c. 360, §1 (AMD).]

12. Automobile mechanic. "Automobile mechanic" means a person who is primarily engaged in the servicing of automobiles or trucks as an employee of an establishment primarily engaged in the business of selling automobiles or trucks to the ultimate purchaser, as long as the person's annual compensation exceeds 3,000 times the state minimum hourly wage or the annualized rate established by the United States Department of Labor under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, whichever is higher, except when the employee is paid by the employer on an hourly basis.

[PL 2007, c. 360, §2 (AMD).]

13. Automobile parts clerk. "Automobile parts clerk" means a person employed for the purpose of and primarily engaged in requisitioning, stocking and dispensing automobile parts as an employee of an establishment primarily engaged in the business of selling automobiles or trucks to the ultimate purchaser, as long as the person's annual compensation exceeds 3,000 times the state minimum hourly wage or the annualized rate established by the United States Department of Labor under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, whichever is higher, except when the employee is paid by the employer on an hourly basis.

[PL 2007, c. 360, §3 (AMD).]

14. Automobile service writer. "Automobile service writer" means a person employed for the purpose of and primarily engaged in receiving, analyzing and referencing requests for service, repair or analysis of motor vehicles as an employee of an establishment primarily engaged in the business of selling automobiles or trucks to the ultimate purchaser, as long as the person's annual compensation exceeds 3,000 times the state minimum hourly wage or the annualized rate established by the United States Department of Labor under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, whichever is higher, except that "automobile service writer" does not include an employee who is paid by the employer on a hourly basis.

[PL 2007, c. 360, §4 (NEW).]

15. Tip. "Tip" means a sum presented by a customer in recognition of services performed by one or more service employees, including a charge automatically included in the customer's bill. "Tip" does

not include a service charge added to a customer's bill in a banquet or private club setting by agreement between the customer and employer.

[PL 2011, c. 118, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 399, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1965, c. 410, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 1967, c. 385 (AMD). PL 1967, c. 466, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 622, §87 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 504 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 48 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 59, §3 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 92, §3 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 623, §38 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 717, §5 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 516, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 168, §26 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 276 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 76, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 779, §69 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 507, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 465, §7 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 89, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 255, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 22, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 360, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 367, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 640, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 120, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §22 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 529, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 118, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 133, §20 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 219, §§13, 14 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 288, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §23 (COR).

§664. Minimum wage; overtime rate

Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, an employer may not employ any employee at a rate less than the rates required by this section. [PL 1995, c. 305, §1 (RPR).]

1. Minimum wage. The minimum hourly wage is \$7.50 per hour. Starting January 1, 2017, the minimum hourly wage is \$9.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2018, the minimum hourly wage is \$10.00 per hour; starting January 1, 2019, the minimum hourly wage is \$11.00 per hour; and starting January 1, 2020, the minimum hourly wage is \$12.00 per hour. On January 1, 2021 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal minimum wage is increased in excess of the minimum wage in effect under this section, the minimum wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum wage, and must be increased in accordance with this section thereafter.

[IB 2015, c. 2, §1 (AMD).]

2. Tip credit. An employer may consider tips as part of the wages of a service employee, but such a tip credit may not exceed 50% of the minimum hourly wage established in this section except that from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, the minimum cash wage paid directly to a tipped service employee may not be less than \$5.00 per hour. An employer who elects to use the tip credit must inform the affected employee in advance, as provided for in this subsection, and must be able to show that the employee receives at least the minimum hourly wage when direct wages and the tip credit are combined within the established 7-day workweek. Upon a satisfactory showing by the employee or the employee's representative that the actual tips received were less than the tip credit, the employer shall increase the direct wages by the difference.

The tips received by a service employee become the property of the employee and may not be shared with the employer. Tips that are automatically included in the customer's bill or that are charged to a credit card must be treated like tips given to the service employee. A tip that is charged to a credit card must be paid by the employer to the employee by the next regular payday and may not be held while the employer is awaiting reimbursement from a credit card company. The employer may not deduct

any amount from employee tips charged to a credit card, including, but not limited to, service fees assessed to the employer in connection with the credit card transaction.

An employer who elects to use the tip credit must inform the affected employee in advance, either orally or in writing, of the following information:

- A. The amount of the direct wage to be paid by the employer to the tipped employee; [PL 2017, c. 272, §1 (NEW).]
 - B. The amount of tips to be credited as wages toward the minimum wage; [PL 2017, c. 272, §1 (NEW).]
 - C. That the amount of tips to be credited as wages may not exceed the value of the tips actually received by the employee; [PL 2017, c. 272, §1 (NEW).]
 - D. That all tips received by the affected employee must be retained by the employee, except for a valid tip pooling arrangement in accordance with subsection 2-A; [PL 2023, c. 179, §1 (AMD).]
 - E. That the tip credit may not apply to any employee who has not been informed by the employer of the provisions for a tip credit; and [PL 2017, c. 272, §1 (NEW).]
 - F. If the employer uses a tip pooling arrangement, any required tip pool contribution amount from the employee. [PL 2017, c. 272, §1 (NEW).]
- [PL 2023, c. 179, §1 (AMD).]

2-A. Tip pooling. This section may not be construed to prohibit an employer from establishing a valid tip pooling arrangement that does not violate the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and regulations made pursuant to that Act as long as:

- A. The tip pooling arrangement is only among service employees when the employer uses the tip credit under subsection 2; or [PL 2023, c. 179, §2 (NEW).]
 - B. The tip pooling arrangement is among a group of employees when the employer pays all employees in the group the minimum hourly wage and does not use the tip credit under subsection 2. An employer may not receive tips from such a tip pool and may not allow supervisors and managers to receive tips from the tip pool. [PL 2023, c. 179, §2 (NEW).]
- [PL 2023, c. 179, §2 (AMD).]

2-B. Service charges. An employer in a banquet or private club setting that adds a service charge shall notify the customer that the service charge does not represent a tip for service employees. The employer in a banquet or private club setting may use some or all of any service charge to meet its obligation to compensate all employees at the rate required by this section. [PL 2011, c. 118, §4 (NEW).]

3. Overtime rate. An employer may not require an employee to work more than 40 hours in any one week unless 1 1/2 times the regular hourly rate is paid for all hours actually worked in excess of 40 hours in that week. The regular hourly rate includes all earnings, bonuses, commissions and other compensation that is paid or due based on actual work performed and does not include any sums excluded from the definition of "regular rate" under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 United States Code, Section 207(e).

The overtime provision of this section does not apply to:

- A. Automobile mechanics, automobile parts clerks, automobile service writers and automobile salespersons as defined in section 663. The interpretation of these terms must be consistent with the interpretation of the same terms under federal overtime law, 29 United States Code, Section 213; [PL 2007, c. 360, §5 (AMD).]
- B. [PL 2007, c. 640, §5 (RP).]

C. Mariners; [PL 1995, c. 305, §1 (NEW).]

D. Public employees, except those employed by the executive or judicial branch of the State; [PL 2003, c. 423, §1 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 423, §5 (AFF).]

E. [PL 2007, c. 640, §6 (RP).]

F. The canning; processing; preserving; freezing; drying; marketing; storing; packing for shipment; or distributing of:

- (1) Agricultural produce;
- (2) Meat and fish products; and
- (3) Perishable foods.

Individuals employed, directly or indirectly, for or at an egg processing facility that has over 300,000 laying birds must be paid overtime in accordance with this subsection; [PL 2019, c. 387, §1 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 387, §4 (AFF).]

G. [PL 2001, c. 628, §3 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 628, §5 (AFF); MRSA T. 26 §664, sub-§3, ¶ G (RP).]

H. [PL 2011, c. 681, §2 (RP).]

I. [PL 2011, c. 681, §2 (RP).]

J. [PL 2011, c. 681, §2 (RP).]

K. A driver or driver's helper who is not paid hourly and is subject to the provisions of 49 United States Code, Section 31502 as amended or to regulations adopted pursuant to that section, who is governed by the applicable provisions of federal law with respect to payment of overtime.

Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit the rights of parties to negotiate rates of pay for drivers and driver's helpers who are represented for purposes of collective bargaining by a labor organization certified by the National Labor Relations Board or who are employed by an entity that is party to a contract with the Federal Government or an agency of the Federal Government that dictates the minimum hourly rate of pay to be paid a driver or driver's helper; and [PL 2019, c. 387, §2 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 387, §4 (AFF).]

L. Public employees employed by the executive or judicial branch of the State engaged in fire protection activities, as defined in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 United States Code, Section 203(y), or in law enforcement activities, as defined in 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 553.211, and who are eligible to have overtime pay calculated and paid in accordance with 29 United States Code, Section 207(k).

This paragraph may not be construed to limit the rights of parties to negotiate an agreement that provides for payment of overtime that exceeds the requirements of 29 United States Code, Section 207(k). [PL 2019, c. 387, §3 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 387, §4 (AFF).]

[PL 2019, c. 387, §§1-3 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 387, §4 (AFF).]

4. Compensatory time. To the extent permitted under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, 29 United States Code, Section 207(o), the overtime pay requirement applicable to executive or judicial employees as described in subsection 3, paragraph D may be met through compensatory time agreements.

[PL 2003, c. 423, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 423, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 410, §5 (AMD). PL 1967, c. 333 (AMD). PL 1967, c. 466, §5 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 184 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 356 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 504, §43 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 590, §41 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 78, §1 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 415 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1971, c.

622, §88 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 420 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 467 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 625, §171 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 752, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 23 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 352 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 54 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 516, §3 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 857 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 76, §2 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 576 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 738, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 507, §2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 233, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 233, §3 (AFF). PL 1993, c. 434, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 434, §8 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 305, §1 (RPR). PL 1995, c. 510, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 136, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 297, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 336, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 628, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 628, §5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 423, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 423, §5 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 697, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 578, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 360, §5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 367, §2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 640, §§4-6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 118, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 681, §§1-3 (AMD). IB 2015, c. 2, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 219, §15 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 272, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 10, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 387, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 387, §4 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 179, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§665. Powers and duties of commissioner

1. Examination of records, books; copies. Every employer subject to this subchapter shall keep a true and accurate record of the hours worked by each employee and of the wages paid, such records to be preserved by the employer for a period of at least 3 years, and shall furnish to each employee with each payment of wages a statement that clearly shows the date of the pay period, the hours, total earnings and itemized deductions. An employer making payment by direct deposit or other means of electronic transfer shall provide each employee with an accurate record of the transfer, including the date of the pay period, the hours, total earnings and itemized deductions, when the transfer is made. If the record is provided in an electronic format the employer shall provide a method by which the employee may have ready access to the information and print it without cost to the employee. The director or the director's authorized representative may, and upon written complaint shall have authority to enter the place of business or employment of any employer or employees in the State, as defined in section 663, for the purpose of examining and inspecting such records and copy any or all of such records as the director or the director's authorized representative determines necessary or appropriate. All information received is considered confidential and may not be divulged to any other person or agency, except as may be necessary for the enforcement of this subchapter. [PL 2005, c. 89, §2 (AMD).]

2. Rules. The director may make and adopt from time to time, pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, such rules, not inconsistent with this subchapter, as the director considers appropriate or necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this subchapter. The rules affecting any particular class of employees and employers must be made and adopted only after notice and opportunity to be heard to those employees and employers affected. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §24 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 410, §6 (AMD). PL 1967, c. 466, §6 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 694, §465 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 89, §2 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §24 (COR).

§666. Workers with disabilities

The director may not issue to an employer for a person with a disability a special certificate authorizing the employer to pay that person a wage less than the minimum wage, based on the ability of the person to perform the duties required for that employment in comparison to the ability of a person who does not have a disability to perform the same duties. An employer may not pay less than the minimum wage to a person by virtue of that person's having a mental or physical disability. A special certificate authorizing the payment of less than minimum wage to a person with a mental or physical disability issued pursuant to a law of this State or to a federal law is without effect. [PL 2019, c. 632, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 483, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 632, §1 (AMD).

§667. Apprentice

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 5, §1 (RP).

§668. Posting of summary

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 219, §16 (RP).

§669. Enforcement

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 410, §7 (RP).

§670. Employees' remedies

Any employer shall be liable to the employee or employees for the amount of unpaid minimum wages. Upon a judgment being rendered in favor of any employee or employees, in any action brought to recover unpaid wages under this subchapter, such judgment shall include, in addition to the unpaid wages adjudged to be due, an additional amount equal to such wages as liquidated damages, and costs of suit including a reasonable attorney's fee. [PL 1965, c. 410, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 410, §8 (AMD).

§670-A. Remedies for overtime wage violations involving state employees

Notwithstanding section 670, in an action brought to recover unpaid overtime wages for an employee of the executive or judicial branch of the State, the judgment or award is limited to the unpaid overtime compensation adjudged to be due, without liquidated damages or attorney's fees. An action for unpaid overtime wages for an employee of the executive or judicial branch of the State must be brought within 2 years after the cause of action accrued, except that a cause of action arising from a willful violation of the overtime wage payment law must be commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrued. Overtime wages are recoverable by employees of the executive or judicial branch beginning with the later of the date the cause of action accrued and the date the applicable limitations period began. [PL 2003, c. 423, §3 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 423, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 423, §3 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 423, §5 (AFF).

§671. Penalties

Any employer who violates this subchapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200.

Any employer, who discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any employee because such employee makes a complaint to the director or to the county attorney concerning a violation of this subchapter, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200. [PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD).]

In the event of the violation of any of the provisions of this subchapter, the Attorney General may institute injunction proceedings in the Superior Court to enjoin further violation thereof. [PL 1965, c. 410, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 410, §9 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD).

§672. Unfair contracts

An employer may not by a special contract with an employee or by any other means be exempted from this subchapter. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §25 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1967, c. 466, §7 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §25 (COR).

§673. Report

1. Annual report. The Department of Labor shall provide a written report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters no later than February 15th of each year. The report must include the following specific information regarding complaints received by the department regarding each violation of the wage and hour laws under this chapter for which the department has taken final action:

- A. Industry; [PL 2017, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Fines sought by the department; [PL 2017, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]
- C. Fines collected by the department; and [PL 2017, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Length of time between the filing of the complaint and final resolution. [PL 2017, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]

The report must also provide, in regard to violations of the wage and hour laws under this chapter, annual aggregate data on the number of complaints filed, number of resolutions of complaints and total amount of fines collected.

The report required by this subsection need not include information already provided to the committee in another report required by law that is issued to the committee in the same calendar year. [PL 2017, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 268, §1 (NEW).

§673-A. Comprehensive educational campaign regarding overtime laws; annual report

1. Department of Labor to educate businesses on overtime laws. The Department of Labor shall conduct a comprehensive educational campaign to ensure that the State's business and nonprofit communities fully understand overtime laws that regulate employees in the State. The comprehensive educational campaign must include educational activities as follows.

- A. At the request of employers and employer groups, the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards shall provide targeted training to employers on the requirements of the State's wage statutes regarding overtime, including a review of the State's minimum hourly wage as established in section 664, the determination of the salary threshold as described in section 663, subsection 3, paragraph K and the determination for whether an employee is exempt from the overtime provisions of the law as described in department rules. [PL 2021, c. 563, §1 (NEW).]
- B. In collaboration with organizations representing the State's business and nonprofit communities, the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards shall:

(1) Create and distribute to employers and employer groups compliance toolkits covering the requirements of the State's wage statutes regarding overtime; and

(2) Offer employers the opportunity to review with bureau staff the employers' classification of employees regarding eligibility for or exemption from overtime pay. [PL 2021, c. 563, §1 (NEW).]

C. The Department of Labor shall launch a social media campaign focusing on overtime requirements and connecting employers and employees with resources to determine the pertinent salary threshold as described in section 663, subsection 3, paragraph K and whether an employee is eligible for or exempt from overtime provisions of the law. [PL 2021, c. 563, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 563, §1 (NEW).]

2. Annual report on overtime laws. The Department of Labor shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters beginning February 15, 2023 and annually thereafter describing the department's educational activities on overtime laws under subsection 1 and the result of those activities. The report must also include data regarding complaints and violations of overtime laws and the status of the department's enforcement efforts regarding overtime laws during the previous calendar year.
[PL 2021, c. 563, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 563, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 3-A

SUBSTANCE USE TESTING

§681. Purpose; applicability

1. Purpose. This subchapter is intended to:

A. Protect the privacy rights of individual employees in the State from undue invasion by employers through the use of substance use tests while allowing the use of tests when the employer has a compelling reason to administer a test; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

B. Ensure that, when substance use tests are used, proper test procedures are employed to protect the privacy rights of employees and applicants and to achieve reliable and accurate results; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

C. Ensure that an employee with substance use disorder receives an opportunity for rehabilitation and treatment of the disease and returns to work as quickly as possible; and [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

D. Eliminate drug use in the workplace. [PL 1989, c. 832, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

2. Employer discretion. This subchapter does not require or encourage employers to conduct substance use testing of employees or applicants. An employer who chooses to conduct such testing is limited by this subchapter, but may establish policies that are supplemental to and not inconsistent with this subchapter.
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

3. Collective bargaining agreements. This subchapter does not prevent the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements that provide greater protection to employees or applicants than is provided by this subchapter.

A labor organization with a collective bargaining agreement effective in the State may conduct a program of substance use testing of its members. The program may include testing of new members and periodic testing of all members. It may not include random testing of members. The program may be voluntary. The results may not be used to preclude referral to a job where testing is not required or to otherwise discipline a member. Sample collection and testing must be done in accordance with this subchapter. Approval of the Department of Labor is not required.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

4. Home rule authority preempted. A municipality may not enact any ordinance under its home rule authority regulating an employer's use of substance use tests.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

5. Contracts for work out of State. All employment contracts subject to the laws of this State must include an agreement that this subchapter will apply to any employer who hires employees to work outside the State.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

6. Medical examinations. This subchapter does not prevent an employer from requiring or performing medical examinations of employees or applicants or from conducting medical screenings to monitor exposure to toxic or other harmful substances in the workplace, as long as these examinations are not used to avoid the restrictions of this subchapter. An examination under this subsection may not include the use of any substance use test except in compliance with this subchapter.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

7. Other discipline unaffected. This subchapter does not prevent an employer from establishing rules related to the possession or use of substances by employees, including convictions for substance-related offenses, and taking action based upon a violation of any of those rules, except when a substance use test is required, requested or suggested by the employer or used as the basis for any disciplinary action.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

8. Nuclear power plants; federal law. The following limitations apply to the application of this subchapter.

A. This subchapter does not apply to nuclear electrical generating facilities and their employees, including independent contractors and employees of independent contractors who are working at nuclear electrical generating facilities. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 832, §2 (RPR).]

B. [PL 2011, c. 196, §1 (RP).]

C. This subchapter does not apply to any employer subject to a federally mandated substance use testing program, including, but not limited to, testing mandated by the federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, Public Law 102-143, Title V, and its employees, including independent contractors and employees of independent contractors who are working for or at the facilities of an employer who is subject to such a federally mandated substance use testing program. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).]

9. Board of Licensure of Railroad Personnel; testing restricted.

[PL 1993, c. 428, §3 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 832, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 428, §3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 324, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 196, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105 (AMD).

§682. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

1. Applicant. "Applicant" means any person seeking employment from an employer. "Applicant" includes any person using an employment agency's services.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

2. Employee. "Employee" means a person who is permitted, required or directed by any employer to engage in any employment for consideration of direct gain or profit. A person separated from employment while receiving a mandated benefit, including but not limited to workers' compensation, unemployment compensation and family medical leave, is an employee for the period the person receives the benefit and for a minimum of 30 days beyond the termination of the benefit. A person separated from employment while receiving a nonmandated benefit is an employee for a minimum of 30 days beyond the separation.

A. A full-time employee is an employee who customarily works 30 hours or more each week. [PL 1995, c. 324, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 1995, c. 324, §3 (AMD).]

3. Employer. "Employer" means any person, partnership, corporation, association or other legal entity, public or private, that employs one or more employees. "Employer" also includes an employment agency.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

3-A. Medically disqualified. "Medically disqualified" means that an employee is prohibited by a federal law or regulation, or any rules adopted by the State's Department of Public Safety that incorporate any federal laws or regulations related to substance use testing for motor carriers, from continuing in the employee's former employment position due to the result of a substance use test conducted under the federal law or regulation or the Department of Public Safety rule.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

4. Negative test result. "Negative test result" means a test result that indicates that:

A. A substance is not present in the tested sample; or [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

B. A substance is present in the tested sample in a concentration below the cutoff level. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

5. Positive test result. "Positive test result" means a test result that indicates the presence of a substance in the tested sample above the cutoff level of the test.

A. "Confirmed positive result" means a confirmation test result that indicates the presence of a substance above the cutoff level in the tested sample. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

6. Probable cause. "Probable cause" means a reasonable ground for belief in the existence of facts that induce a person to believe that an employee may be under the influence of a substance, provided that the existence of probable cause may not be based exclusively on any of the following:

A. Information received from an anonymous informant; [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. Any information tending to indicate that an employee may have possessed or used a substance off duty, except when the employee is observed possessing or ingesting any substance either while on the employer's premises or in the proximity of the employer's premises during or immediately before the employee's working hours; or [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

C. A single work-related accident. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

7. Substance use test. "Substance use test" means any test procedure designed to take and analyze body fluids or materials from the body for the purpose of detecting the presence of substances. "Substance use test" does not include tests designed to determine blood-alcohol concentration levels from a sample of an individual's breath.

A. "Screening test" means an initial substance use test performed through the use of immunoassay technology or a federally recognized substance use test, or a test technology of similar or greater accuracy and reliability approved by the Department of Health and Human Services under rules adopted under section 687, and that is used as a preliminary step in detecting the presence of substances.

(1) A screening test of an applicant's urine or saliva may be performed at the point of collection through the use of a noninstrumented point of collection test device approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Section 683, subsection 5-A governs the use of such tests. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

B. "Confirmation test" means a 2nd substance use test that is used to verify the presence of a substance indicated by an initial positive screening test result and is a federally recognized substance use test or is performed through the use of liquid or gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

C. "Federally recognized substance use test" means any substance use test recognized by the federal Food and Drug Administration as accurate and reliable through the administration's clearance or approval process. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

8. Substance. "Substance" means any scheduled drug, alcohol or other drug, or any of their metabolites.

A. "Alcohol" has the same meaning as found in Title 28-A, section 2, subsection 2. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. "Drug" has the same meaning as found in Title 32, section 13702-A, subsection 11. [PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. B, §5 (AMD).]

C. "Scheduled drug" has the same meaning as found in Title 17-A, section 1101, subsection 11. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 832, §§4,5 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 324, §3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 556, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. B, §5 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106 (AMD).

§683. Testing procedures

An employer may not require, request or suggest that any employee or applicant submit to a substance use test except in compliance with this section. All actions taken under a substance use testing program must comply with this subchapter, rules adopted under this subchapter and the employer's written policy approved under section 686. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

1. Employee assistance program required. Before establishing any substance use testing program for employees, an employer with over 20 full-time employees must have a functioning employee assistance program.

A. The employer may meet this requirement by participating in a cooperative employee assistance program that serves the employees of more than one employer. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. [PL 2025, c. 305, Pt. A, §6 (RP).]
[PL 2025, c. 305, Pt. A, §6 (AMD).]

2. Written policy. Before establishing any substance use testing program, an employer shall develop or, as required in section 684, subsection 3, paragraph C, appoint an employee committee to develop a written policy in compliance with this subchapter providing for, at a minimum:

A. The procedure and consequences of an employee's voluntary admission of a substance use problem and any available assistance, including the availability and procedure of the employer's employee assistance program; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

B. When substance use testing may occur. The written policy must describe:

(1) Which positions, if any, will be subject to testing, including any positions subject to random or arbitrary testing under section 684, subsection 3. For applicant testing and probable cause testing of employees, an employer may designate that all positions are subject to testing; and

(2) The procedure to be followed in selecting employees to be tested on a random or arbitrary basis under section 684, subsection 3; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

C. The collection of samples.

(1) The collection of any sample for use in a substance use test must be conducted in a medical facility and supervised by a licensed physician or nurse. A medical facility includes a first aid station located at the work site.

(2) An employer may not require an employee or applicant to remove any clothing for the purpose of collecting a urine sample, except that:

(a) An employer may require that an employee or applicant leave any personal belongings other than clothing and any unnecessary coat, jacket or similar outer garments outside the collection area; or

(b) If it is the standard practice of an off-site medical facility to require the removal of clothing when collecting a urine sample for any purpose, the physician or nurse supervising the collection of the sample in that facility may require the employee or applicant to remove their clothing.

(3) An employee or applicant may not be required to provide a urine sample while being observed, directly or indirectly, by another individual.

(4) The employer may take additional actions necessary to ensure the integrity of a urine sample if the sample collector or testing laboratory determines that the sample may have been substituted, adulterated, diluted or otherwise tampered with in an attempt to influence test results. The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules governing when those additional actions are justified and the scope of those actions. These rules may not permit the direct or indirect observation of the collection of a urine sample. If an employee or applicant is found to have twice substituted, adulterated, diluted or otherwise tampered with the employee's or applicant's urine sample, as determined under the rules adopted by the department, the employee or applicant is deemed to have refused to submit to a substance use test.

(5) If the employer proposes to use the type of screening test described in section 682, subsection 7, paragraph A, subparagraph (1), the employer's policy must include:

- (a) Procedures to ensure the confidentiality of test results as required in section 685, subsection 3; and
- (b) Procedures for training persons performing the test in the proper manner of collecting samples and reading results, maintaining a proper chain of custody and complying with other applicable provisions of this subchapter; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]
- D. The storage of samples before testing sufficient to inhibit deterioration of the sample; [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]
- E. The chain of custody of samples sufficient to protect the sample from tampering and to verify the identity of each sample and test result; [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]
- F. The substances to be tested for; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]
- G. The cutoff levels for both screening and confirmation tests at which the presence of a substance in a sample is considered a positive test result.
 - (1) Cutoff levels for confirmation tests for cannabis may not be lower than 15 nanograms of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid per milliliter for urine samples.
 - (2) The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules under section 687 regulating screening and confirmation cutoff levels for other substances, including those substances tested for in blood samples under subsection 5, paragraph B, to ensure that levels are set within known tolerances of test methods and above mere trace amounts. An employer may request that the Department of Health and Human Services establish a cutoff level for any substance for which the department has not established a cutoff level.
 - (3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2), if the Department of Health and Human Services does not have established cutoff levels or procedures for any specific federally recognized substance use test, the minimum cutoff levels and procedures that apply are those set forth in the Federal Register, Volume 69, No. 71, sections 3.4 to 3.7 on pages 19697 and 19698; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 669, §5 (REV).]
- H. The consequences of a confirmed positive substance use test result; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]
- I. The consequences for refusal to submit to a substance use test; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]
- J. Opportunities and procedures for rehabilitation following a confirmed positive result; [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]
- K. A procedure under which an employee or applicant who receives a confirmed positive result may appeal and contest the accuracy of that result. The policy must include a mechanism that provides an opportunity to appeal at no cost to the appellant; and [PL 1995, c. 324, §4 (AMD).]
- L. Any other matters required by rules adopted by the Department of Labor under section 687. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

An employer shall consult with the employer's employees in the development of any portion of a substance use testing policy under this subsection that relates to the employees. The employer is not required to consult with the employees on those portions of a policy that relate only to applicants. The employer shall send a copy of the final written policy to the Department of Labor for review under section 686. The employer may not implement the policy until the Department of Labor approves the policy. The employer shall send a copy of any proposed change in an approved written policy to the Department of Labor for review under section 686. The employer may not implement the change until the Department of Labor approves the change.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 669, §5 (REV).]

3. Copies to employees and applicants. The employer shall provide each employee with a copy of the written policy approved by the Department of Labor under section 686 at least 30 days before any portion of the written policy applicable to employees takes effect. The employer shall provide each employee with a copy of any change in a written policy approved by the Department of Labor under section 686 at least 60 days before any portion of the change applicable to employees takes effect. The Department of Labor may waive the 60-day notice for the implementation of an amendment covering employees if the amendment was necessary to comply with the law or if, in the judgment of the department, the amendment promotes the purpose of the law and does not lessen the protection of an individual employee. If an employer intends to test an applicant, the employer shall provide the applicant with a copy of the written policy under subsection 2 before administering a substance use test to the applicant. The 30-day and 60-day notice periods provided for employees under this subsection do not apply to applicants.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

4. Consent forms prohibited. An employer may not require, request or suggest that any employee or applicant sign or agree to any form or agreement that attempts to:

- A. Absolve the employer from any potential liability arising out of the imposition of the substance use test; or [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]
- B. Waive an employee's or applicant's rights or eliminate or diminish an employer's obligations under this subchapter except as provided in subsection 4-A. [PL 2007, c. 339, §1 (AMD).]

Any form or agreement prohibited by this subsection is void.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

4-A. Waivers for temporary employment. An employment agency, as defined in section 611, may request a written waiver for a temporary placement from an individual already in its employ or on a roster of eligibility as long as the client company has an approved substance use testing policy and the individual has not been assigned work at the client company in the 30 days previous to the request. The waiver is only to allow a test that might not otherwise be allowed under this subchapter. The test must otherwise comply with the standards of this subchapter and the employment agency's approved policy regarding applicant testing. The agency may not take adverse action against the individual for refusal to sign a waiver.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

5. Right to obtain other samples. At the request of the employee or applicant at the time the test sample is taken, the employer shall, at that time:

- A. Segregate a portion of the sample for that person's own testing. Within 5 days after notice of the test result is given to the employee or applicant, the employee or applicant shall notify the employer of the testing laboratory selected by the employee or applicant. This laboratory must comply with the requirements of this section related to testing laboratories. When the employer receives notice of the employee or applicant's selection, the employer shall promptly send the segregated portion of the sample to the named testing laboratory, subject to the same chain of custody requirements applicable to testing of the employer's portion of the sample. The employee or applicant shall pay the costs of these tests. Payment for these tests may not be required earlier than when notice of the choice of laboratory is given to the employer; and [PL 1995, c. 324, §6 (AMD).]
- B. In the case of an employee, have a blood sample taken from the employee by a licensed physician, licensed physician associate, registered nurse or a person certified by the Department of Health and Human Services to draw blood samples. The employer shall have this sample tested for the presence of alcohol or cannabis metabolites, if those substances are to be tested for under

the employer's written policy. If the employee requests that a blood sample be taken as provided in this paragraph, the employer may not test any other sample from the employee for the presence of these substances.

(1) The Department of Health and Human Services may identify, by rules adopted under section 687, other substances for which an employee may request a blood sample be tested instead of a urine sample if the department determines that a sufficient correlation exists between the presence of the substance in an individual's blood and its effect upon the individual's performance.

(2) An employer may not require, request or suggest that any employee or applicant provide a blood sample for substance use testing purposes nor may any employer conduct a substance use test upon a blood sample except as provided in this paragraph.

(3) Applicants do not have the right to require the employer to test a blood sample as provided in this paragraph. [PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §7 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 669, §5 (REV); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

[PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §7 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 669, §5 (REV); PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).]

5-A. Point of collection screening test. Except as provided in this subsection, all provisions of this subchapter regulating screening tests apply to noninstrumented point of collection test devices described in section 682, subsection 7, paragraph A, subparagraph (1).

A. A noninstrumented point of collection test described in section 682, subsection 7, paragraph A, subparagraph (1) may be performed at the point of collection rather than in a laboratory. Subsections 6 and 7 and subsection 8, paragraphs A to C do not apply to such screening tests. Subsection 5 applies only to a sample that results in a positive test result. [PL 2001, c. 556, §3 (NEW).]

B. Any sample that results in a negative test result must be destroyed. Any sample that results in a positive test result must be sent to a qualified testing laboratory consistent with subsections 6 to 8 for confirmation testing. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

C. A person who performs a point of collection screening test or a confirmation test may release the results of that test only as follows.

(1) For a point of collection screening test that results in a preliminary positive or negative test result, the person performing the test shall release the test result to the employee who is the subject of the test immediately.

(2) For a point of collection screening test that results in a preliminary positive test result, the person performing the test may not release the test result to the employer until after the result of the confirmation test has been determined.

(3) For a point of collection screening test that results in a preliminary negative test result, the person performing the test may not release the test result to the employer until after the result of a confirmation test would have been determined if one had been performed.

(4) For a confirmation test, the person performing the test shall release the result immediately to the employee who is the subject of the test and to the employer. [PL 2005, c. 443, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

6. Qualified testing laboratories required. An employer may not perform any substance use test administered to any of that employer's employees. An employer may perform screening tests administered to applicants if the employer's testing facilities comply with the requirements for testing laboratories under this subsection. Except as provided in subsection 5-A, any substance use test

administered under this subchapter must be performed in a qualified testing laboratory that complies with this subsection.

A. [PL 1989, c. 832, §8 (RP).]

B. The laboratory must have written testing procedures and procedures to ensure a clear chain of custody. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

C. The laboratory must demonstrate satisfactory performance in the proficiency testing program of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the College of American Pathology or the American Association for Clinical Chemistry. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

D. The laboratory must comply with rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services under section 687. These rules must ensure that:

(1) The laboratory possesses all licenses or certifications that the department finds necessary or desirable to ensure reliable and accurate test results;

(2) The laboratory follows proper quality control procedures, including, but not limited to:

(a) The use of internal quality controls during each substance use test conducted under this subchapter, including the use of blind samples and samples of known concentrations that are used to check the performance and calibration of testing equipment;

(b) The internal review and certification process for test results, including the qualifications of the person who performs that function in the testing laboratory; and

(c) Security measures implemented by the testing laboratory; and

(3) Other necessary and proper actions are taken to ensure reliable and accurate test results.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

7. Testing procedure. A testing laboratory shall perform a screening test on each sample submitted by the employer for only those substances that the employer requests to be identified. If a screening test result is negative, no further test may be conducted on that sample. If a screening test result is positive, a confirmation test must be performed on that sample. A testing laboratory shall retain all confirmed positive samples for one year in a manner that will inhibit deterioration of the samples and allow subsequent retesting. All other samples must be disposed of immediately after testing.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

8. Laboratory report of test results. This subsection governs the reporting of test results.

A. A laboratory report of test results must, at a minimum, state:

(1) The name of the laboratory that performed the test or tests;

(2) Any confirmed positive results on any tested sample.

(a) Unless the employee or applicant consents, test results may not be reported in numerical or quantitative form but must state only that the test result was positive or negative. This division does not apply if the test or the test results become the subject of any grievance procedure, administrative proceeding or civil action.

(b) A testing laboratory and the employer shall ensure that an employee's unconfirmed positive screening test result cannot be determined by the employer in any manner, including, but not limited to, the method of billing the employer for the tests performed by the laboratory and the time within which results are provided to the employer. This division does not apply to test results for applicants;

- (3) The sensitivity or cutoff level of the confirmation test; and
- (4) Any available information concerning the margin of accuracy and precision of the test methods employed.

The report may not disclose the presence or absence of evidence of any physical or mental condition or of any substance other than the specific substances that the employer requested to be identified. A testing laboratory shall retain records of confirmed positive results in a numerical or quantitative form for at least 2 years. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

B. The employer shall promptly notify the employee or applicant tested of the test result. Upon request of an employee or applicant, the employer shall promptly provide a legible copy of the laboratory report to the employee or applicant. Within 3 working days after notice of a confirmed positive test result, the employee or applicant may submit information to the employer explaining or contesting the results. [PL 1989, c. 832, §9 (AMD).]

C. The testing laboratory shall send test reports for samples segregated at an employee's or applicant's request under subsection 5, paragraph A, to both the employer and the employee or applicant tested. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

D. Every employer whose policy is approved by the Department of Labor under section 686 shall annually send to the department a compilation of the results of all substance use tests administered by that employer in the previous calendar year. This report must provide separate categories for employees and applicants and must be presented in statistical form so that no person who was tested by that employer can be identified from the report. The report must include a separate category for any tests conducted on a random or arbitrary basis under section 684, subsection 3. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

9. Costs. The employer shall pay the costs of all substance use tests that the employer requires, requests or suggests that an employee or applicant submit. Except as provided in paragraph A, the employee or applicant shall pay the costs of any additional substance use tests.

Costs of a substance use test administered at the request of an employee under subsection 5, paragraph B, must be paid:

A. By the employer if the test results are negative for all substances tested for in the sample; and [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

B. By the employee if the test results in a confirmed positive result for any of the substances tested for in the sample. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

10. Limitation on use of tests. An employer may administer substance use tests to employees or applicants only for the purpose of discovering the use of any substance likely to cause impairment of the user or the use of any scheduled drug. An employer may not have substance use tests administered to an employee or applicant for the purpose of discovering any other information.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

11. Rules. The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt any rules under section 687 regulating substance use testing procedures that it finds necessary or desirable to ensure accurate and reliable substance use testing and to protect the privacy rights of employees and applicants.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 832, §§6-9 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 283, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 324, §§4-6 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 199, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 556, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 547, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV). PL 2005,

c. 443, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 339, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 133, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §72 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §7 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 669, §5 (REV). PL 2025, c. 305, Pt. A, §6 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 316, §3 (REV).

§684. Imposition of tests

1. Testing of applicants. An employer may require, request or suggest that an applicant submit to a substance use test only if:

A. The applicant has been offered employment with the employer; or [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. The applicant has been offered a position on a roster of eligibility from which applicants will be selected for employment. The number of persons on this roster of eligibility may not exceed the number of applicants hired by that employer in the preceding 6 months. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 536, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

The offer of employment or offer of a position on a roster of eligibility may be conditioned on the applicant receiving a negative test result.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

2. Probable cause testing of employees. An employer may require, request or suggest that an employee submit to a substance use test if the employer has probable cause to test the employee.

A. The employee's immediate supervisor, other supervisory personnel, a licensed physician or nurse, or the employer's security personnel must make the determination of probable cause. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

B. The supervisor or other person must state, in writing, the facts upon which the determination made under paragraph A is based and provide a copy of the statement to the employee. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

3. Random or arbitrary testing of employees. In addition to testing employees on a probable cause basis under subsection 2, an employer may require, request or suggest that an employee submit to a substance use test on a random or arbitrary basis if:

A. The employer and the employee have bargained for provisions in a collective bargaining agreement, either before or after the effective date of this subchapter, that provide for random or arbitrary testing of employees. A random or arbitrary testing program that would result from implementation of an employer's last best offer is not considered a provision bargained for in a collective bargaining agreement for purposes of this section; [PL 2003, c. 547, §2 (AMD).]

B. The employee works in a position the nature of which would create an unreasonable threat to the health or safety of the public or the employee's coworkers if the employee were under the influence of a substance. It is the intent of the Legislature that the requirements of this paragraph be narrowly construed; or [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

C. The employer has established a random or arbitrary testing program under this paragraph that applies to all employees, except as provided in subparagraph (4), regardless of position.

(1) An employer may establish a testing program under this paragraph only if the employer has 50 or more employees who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

(2) The written policy required by section 683, subsection 2 with respect to a testing program under this paragraph must be developed by a committee of at least 10 of the employer's employees. The employer shall appoint members to the committee from a cross-section of employees who are eligible to be tested. The committee must include a medical professional who is trained in procedures for testing for substances. If no such person is employed by the

employer, the employer shall obtain the services of such a person to serve as a member of the committee created under this subparagraph.

(3) The written policy developed under subparagraph (2) must also require that selection of employees for testing be performed by a person or entity not subject to the employer's influence, such as a medical review officer. Selection must be made from a list, provided by the employer, of all employees subject to testing under this paragraph. The list may not contain information that would identify the employee to the person or entity making the selection.

(4) Employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement are not included in testing programs pursuant to this paragraph unless they agree to be included pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement as described under paragraph A.

(5) Before initiating a testing program under this paragraph, the employer shall obtain from the Department of Labor approval of the policy developed by the employee committee, as required in section 686. If the employer does not approve of the written policy developed by the employee committee, the employer may decide not to submit the policy to the department and not to establish the testing program. The employer may not change the written policy without approval of the employee committee.

(6) The employer may not discharge, suspend, demote, discipline or otherwise discriminate with regard to compensation or working conditions against an employee for participating or refusing to participate in an employee committee created pursuant to this paragraph. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

4. Testing while undergoing rehabilitation or treatment. While the employee is participating in a substance use rehabilitation program either as a result of voluntary contact with or mandatory referral to the employer's employee assistance program or after a confirmed positive result as provided in section 685, subsection 2, paragraphs B and C, substance use testing may be conducted by the rehabilitation or treatment provider as required, requested or suggested by that provider.

A. Substance use testing conducted as part of such a rehabilitation or treatment program is not subject to the provisions of this subchapter regulating substance use testing. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

B. An employer may not require, request or suggest that any substance use test be administered to any employee while the employee is undergoing such rehabilitation or treatment, except as provided in subsections 2 and 3. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

C. The results of any substance use test administered to an employee as part of such a rehabilitation or treatment program may not be released to the employer. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

5. Testing upon return to work. If an employee who has received a confirmed positive result returns to work with the same employer, whether or not the employee has participated in a rehabilitation program under section 685, subsection 2, the employer may require, request or suggest that the employee submit to a subsequent substance use test anytime between 90 days and one year after the date of the employee's prior test. A test may be administered under this subsection in addition to any tests conducted under subsections 2 and 3. An employer may require, request or suggest that an employee submit to a substance use test during the first 90 days after the date of the employee's prior test only as provided in subsections 2 and 3.

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 832, §§10,11 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 706, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 547, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108 (AMD).

§685. Action taken on substance use tests

Action taken by an employer on the basis of a substance use test is limited as provided in this section. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

1. Before receipt of test results. An employer may suspend an employee with full pay and benefits or may transfer the employee to another position with no reduction in pay or benefits while awaiting an employee's test results.

[PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

2. Use of confirmation test results. This subsection governs an employer's use of confirmed positive results and an employee's or applicant's refusal to submit to a test requested or required by an employer in compliance with this subchapter.

A. Subject to any limitation of the Maine Human Rights Act or any other state law or federal law, an employer may use a confirmed positive result or refusal to submit to a test as a factor in any of the following decisions:

- (1) Refusal to hire an applicant for employment or refusal to place an applicant on a roster of eligibility;
- (2) Discharge of an employee;
- (3) Discipline of an employee; or
- (4) Change in the employee's work assignment. [PL 1995, c. 324, §7 (AMD).]

A-1. An employer who tests a person as an applicant and employs that person prior to receiving the test result may take no action on a positive result except in accordance with the employee provisions of the employer's approved policy. [PL 1995, c. 324, §8 (NEW).]

B. Before taking any action described in paragraph A in the case of an employee who receives an initial confirmed positive result, an employer shall provide the employee with an opportunity to participate for up to 6 months in a rehabilitation program designed to enable the employee to avoid future use of a substance and to participate in an employee assistance program, if the employer has such a program. The employer may take any action described in paragraph A if the employee receives a subsequent confirmed positive result from a test administered by the employer under this subchapter. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

C. If the employee chooses not to participate in a rehabilitation program under this subsection, the employer may take any action described in paragraph A. If the employee chooses to participate in a rehabilitation program, the following provisions apply.

(1) If the employer has an employee assistance program that offers counseling or rehabilitation services, the employee may choose to enter that program at the employer's expense. If these services are not available from an employer's employee assistance program or if the employee chooses not to participate in that program, the employee may enter a public or private rehabilitation program.

(a) Except to the extent that costs are covered by a group health insurance plan, the costs of the public or private rehabilitation program must be equally divided between the employer and employee if the employer has more than 20 full-time employees. This requirement does not apply to municipalities or other political subdivisions of the State or to any employer when the employee is tested because of the alcohol and controlled substance testing mandated by the federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act

of 1991, Public Law 102-143, Title V. If necessary, the employer shall assist in financing the cost share of the employee through a payroll deduction plan.

(b) Except to the extent that costs are covered by a group health insurance plan, an employer with 20 or fewer full-time employees, a municipality or other political subdivision of the State is not required to pay for any costs of rehabilitation or treatment under any public or private rehabilitation program. An employer is not required to pay for the costs of rehabilitation if the employee was tested because of the alcohol and controlled substance testing mandated by the federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, Public Law 102-143, Title V.

(2) An employer may not take any action described in paragraph A while an employee is participating in a rehabilitation program, except as provided in subparagraph (2-A) and except that an employer may change the employee's work assignment or suspend the employee from active duty to reduce any possible safety hazard. Except as provided in subparagraph (2-A), an employee's pay or benefits may not be reduced while an employee is participating in a rehabilitation program, provided that the employer is not required to pay the employee for periods in which the employee is unavailable for work for the purposes of rehabilitation or while the employee is medically disqualified. The employee may apply normal sick leave and vacation time, if any, for these periods.

(2-A) A rehabilitation or treatment provider shall promptly notify the employer if the employee fails to comply with the prescribed rehabilitation program before the expiration of the 6-month period provided in paragraph B. Upon receipt of this notice, the employer may take any action described in paragraph A.

(3) Except as provided in divisions (a) and (b), upon successfully completing the rehabilitation program, as determined by the rehabilitation or treatment provider after consultation with the employer, the employee is entitled to return to the employee's previous job with full pay and benefits unless conditions unrelated to the employee's previous confirmed positive result make the employee's return impossible. Reinstatement of the employee may not conflict with any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between the employer and a labor organization that is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the employee is or would be a part. If the rehabilitation or treatment provider determines that the employee has not successfully completed the rehabilitation program within 6 months after starting the program, the employer may take any action described in paragraph A.

(a) If the employee who has completed rehabilitation previously worked in an employment position subject to random or arbitrary testing under an employer's written policy, the employer may refuse to allow the employee to return to the previous job if the employer believes that the employee may pose an unreasonable safety hazard because of the nature of the position. The employer shall attempt to find suitable work for the employee immediately after refusing the employee's return to the previous position. A reduction may not be made in the employee's previous benefits or rate of pay while the employee is awaiting reassignment to work or working in a position other than the previous job. The employee must be reinstated to the previous position or to another position with an equivalent rate of pay and benefits and with no loss of seniority within 6 months after returning to work in any capacity with the employer unless the employee has received a subsequent confirmed positive result within that time from a test administered under this subchapter or unless conditions unrelated to the employee's previous confirmed positive test result make that reinstatement or reassignment impossible. Placement of the employee in suitable work and reinstatement may not conflict with any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between the employer and a labor organization that is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the employee is or would be a part.

(b) Notwithstanding division (a), if an employee who has successfully completed rehabilitation is medically disqualified, the employer is not required to reinstate the employee or find suitable work for the employee during the period of disqualification. The employer is not required to compensate the employee during the period of disqualification. Immediately after the employee's medical disqualification ceases, the employer's obligations under division (a) attach as if the employee had successfully completed rehabilitation on that date. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

D. This subsection does not require an employer to take any disciplinary action against an employee who refuses to submit to a test, receives a single or repeated confirmed positive result or does not choose to participate in a rehabilitation program. This subsection is intended to set minimum opportunities for an employee with a substance use problem to address the problem through rehabilitation. An employer may offer additional opportunities, not otherwise in violation of this subchapter, for rehabilitation or continued employment without rehabilitation. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

3. Confidentiality. This subsection governs the use of information acquired by an employer in the testing process.

A. Unless the employee or applicant consents, all information acquired by an employer in the testing process is confidential and may not be released to any person other than the employee or applicant who is tested, any necessary personnel of the employer and a provider of rehabilitation or treatment services under subsection 2, paragraph C. This paragraph does not prevent:

(1) The release of this information when required or permitted by state or federal law, including release under section 683, subsection 8, paragraph D; or

(2) The use of this information in any grievance procedure, administrative hearing or civil action relating to the imposition of the test or the use of test results. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. Notwithstanding any other law, the results of any substance use test required, requested or suggested by any employer may not be used in any criminal proceeding. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 832, §§12,13 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 324, §§7,8 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 344, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 547, §3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109 (AMD).

§686. Review of written policies

1. Review required. The Department of Labor shall review each written policy or change to an approved policy submitted to the department by an employer under section 683, subsection 2.

A. The department shall determine if the employer's written policy or change complies with this subchapter and shall immediately notify the employer who submitted the policy or change of that determination. If the department finds that the policy or change does not comply with this subchapter, the department shall also notify the employer of the specific areas in which the policy or change is defective. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. The department may request additional information from an employer when necessary to determine whether an employment position meets the requirements of section 684, subsection 3. The department shall not approve any written policy that provides for random or arbitrary testing

of any employment position that the employer has failed to demonstrate meets the requirements of section 684, subsection 3. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

C. The department shall allow for the use of any federally recognized substance use test. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §110 (AMD).]
[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §110 (AMD).]

2. Review procedure. The Department of Labor shall adopt rules under section 687 governing the procedure for reviews conducted under this section.

A. The rules must provide for notice to be given to the employees of any employer who submits a written policy or amendment applicable to employees to the department for review under this section. The employees may submit written comments to the department challenging any portion of the employer's written policy, including the proposed designation of any position under section 684, subsection 3, paragraph B. [PL 1995, c. 324, §9 (AMD).]

B. Nothing in this section requires a formal hearing to be held concerning the submission and review of an employer's written policy. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

C. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8003, the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, does not apply to reviews conducted under this section except that all determinations by the Department of Labor under this section may be appealed as provided in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter VII. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

D. The rules may establish model applicant policies and employee probable cause policies and provide for expedited approval and registration for employers adopting such model policies. The rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. [PL 1997, c. 49, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 49, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 324, §9 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 49, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 133, §3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §110 (AMD).

§687. Rulemaking

1. Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act as provided in this subchapter. [PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §73 (AMD).]

2. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor shall adopt rules under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, as provided in this subchapter. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

3. Coordination; deadline. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor shall cooperate to ensure any necessary coordination between the rules of both departments. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor shall adopt initial rules before December 1, 1989.

[PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 283, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §73 (AMD).

§688. Substance use education

All employers shall cooperate fully with the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Safety and any other state agency in programs designed to educate employees about the dangers of substance use and about public and private services available to employees who have substance use disorder. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §111 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 283, §3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §74 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §111 (AMD).

§689. Violation and remedies

This section governs the enforcement of this subchapter. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

1. Remedies. Any employer who violates this subchapter is liable to any employee subjected to discipline or discharge based on that violation for:

A. An amount equal to 3 times any lost wages; [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. Reinstatement of the employee to the employee's job with full benefits; [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

C. Court costs; and [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

D. Reasonable attorney's fees, as set by the court. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

[PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

2. Breach of confidentiality. In addition to the liability imposed under subsection 1, any person who violates section 684, subsection 4, paragraph C, or section 685, subsection 3:

A. For the first offense, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000, payable to the affected employee, to be recovered in a civil action; and [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. For any subsequent offense, is subject to a civil penalty of \$2,000, payable to the affected employee, to be recovered in a civil action. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

[PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

3. Harassment. In addition to the liability imposed under subsection 1, any employer who requires or repeatedly attempts to require an employee or applicant to submit to a substance use test under conditions that would not justify the test under this subchapter or who without substantial justification repeatedly requires an employee to submit to a substance use test under section 684, subsection 3:

A. Is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000, payable to the affected employee, to be recovered in a civil action; and [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. For any subsequent offense against the same employee, is subject to a civil penalty of \$2,000, payable to the affected employee, to be recovered in a civil action. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §112 (AMD).]

4. Enforcement. The Department of Labor or the affected employee or employees may enforce this subchapter. The department may:

A. Collect the judgment on behalf of the employee or employees; and [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

B. Supervise the payment of the judgment and the reinstatement of the employee or employees. [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]
[PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1,2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §112 (AMD).

§690. Report

The Department of Labor shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters on March 1, 1990, and annually on that date thereafter. This report shall: [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

1. List of employers. List those employers whose substance use testing policies have been approved by the Department of Labor under section 686; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §113 (AMD).]

2. Persons tested. Indicate whether those employers are testing applicants or employees, or both; [PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF).]

3. Random or arbitrary testing. Indicate those employers whose substance use testing policies permit random or arbitrary testing under section 684, subsection 3, and describe the employment positions subject to such random or arbitrary testing; [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §113 (AMD).]

4. Results. Provide statistical data relating to the reports received from employers indicating the number of substance use tests administered by those employers in the previous calendar year and the results of those tests; and [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §113 (AMD).]

5. Description. Briefly describe the general scope and practice of workplace substance use testing in the State. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §113 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 536, §§1, 2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 604, §§2, 3 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §113 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 4

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

ARTICLE 1

PROVISIONS COMMON TO FEMALES AND MINORS

§701. Posting of notice of hours of labor (REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 701, §11 (RPR). PL 1989, c. 738, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 242, §2 (RP).

§701-A. Application of subchapter

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 10, §1 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 219, §17 (RP).

§702. Record of work hours of minors under 18 years of age

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 701, §12 (RPR). PL 1979, c. 468, §1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 242, §3 (AMD). RR 2005, c. 1, §11 (COR). PL 2017, c. 219, §17 (RP).

§703. Exemptions for perishable goods

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 701, §13 (RP).

§704. Penalty for employers

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 470, §A141 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 698, §115 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §3 (RPR). PL 2001, c. 242, §4 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 219, §17 (RP).

ARTICLE 2

FEMALES

§731. Hours of employment for females; 9 hours a day

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 701, §14 (RP).

§732. -- six and one-half hours continuous maximum

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 701, §14 (RP).

§733. -- fifty-four hours a week

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 701, §14 (RP).

§734. -- fifty hours a week in certain places

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 701, §14 (RP).

§735. Seats for female employees**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 701, §14 (RP).

§736. Application of provisions**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 701, §14 (RP).

§737. -- war and other emergencies**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 701, §14 (RP).

§738. Penalty for employers**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 701, §15 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 407 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 470, §A142 (RP). PL 1981, c. 698, §116 (RP).

ARTICLE 3**MINORS****§771. Minors under 14 years of age**

A minor under 14 years of age may not be employed, permitted or suffered to work in nonagricultural or agricultural employment, except for agricultural employment in the planting, cultivating or harvesting of field crops or other agricultural employment not in direct contact with hazardous machinery or hazardous substances as long as the employment is in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to section 772 and in accordance with 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 570. This section does not apply to any minor under 14 years of age employed in school lunch programs, if limited to serving food and cleaning up dining rooms, or in a business solely owned by the minor's parents. A parent is prohibited from employing the parent's minor child in occupations declared hazardous by the director pursuant to section 772 and in accordance with 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 570. [PL 2017, c. 286, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 238, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 468, §2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §4 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 286, §1 (AMD).

§772. Minors under 18 years of age; hazardous employment

1. Prohibition against certain employment. A minor under 18 years of age may not be employed in any capacity that the director determines to be hazardous, dangerous to life or limbs or injurious to the minor's health or morals.

[PL 2003, c. 59, §1 (NEW).]

2. Rules; list of employment and occupations. The director shall adopt rules to develop and maintain a list of employment and occupations not suitable for a minor. The rules must conform as far as practicable to the child labor provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 United States Code, Section 212 and any associated regulations. The rules must also contain provisions prohibiting the employment of minors in places having nude entertainment and in registered dispensaries of cannabis for medical use authorized under Title 22, chapter 558-C and in establishments that cultivate, produce or sell cannabis or products in which cannabis is an ingredient as authorized under Title 28-B, chapter 1.

[PL 2017, c. 409, Pt. A, §5 (AMD); PL 2021, c. 669, §5 (REV).]

3. Rules relating to confined spaces and height. The director shall adopt rules prohibiting a minor under 18 years of age from working in confined spaces or at a designated height when regulations of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, adopted under the general industry standards, 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910, require special precautions or procedures for such work. The rules must provide exceptions to the prohibition in specific exceptional circumstances, such as work required for public safety.

[PL 2003, c. 59, §1 (NEW).]

4. Rules are routine technical. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2003, c. 59, §1 (NEW).]

5. Application. This section does not apply to minors in public and approved private schools where mechanical equipment is installed and operated primarily for purposes of instruction or minors who are volunteer participants in a career-oriented law enforcement program and perform traffic control duties at civic events pursuant to section 786.

[PL 2013, c. 142, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 663, §159 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 597, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 30, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 59, §1 (RPR). PL 2009, c. 631, §47 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 631, §51 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 142, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 286, §2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 409, Pt. A, §5 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 669, §5 (REV).

§773. Minors under 16; prohibited in certain places

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 238, §2 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 401 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 665, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 520, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 434, §2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 347, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 353, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 43, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 487, Pt. B, §12 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 286, §3 (RP).

§773-A. Occupations

1. Minors under 16 years of age. A minor under 16 years of age may not be employed, permitted or suffered to work in, about or in connection with any manufacturing or mechanical establishment, hotel, rooming house, laundry, except a laundry commonly known as an automatic laundry, dry cleaning establishment, bakery, poolroom or commercial place of amusement, including a traveling show or circus, or in conjunction with an amusement, game or show that allows or conducts betting.

[PL 2017, c. 286, §4 (NEW).]

2. Minors 14 and 15 years of age. The provisions of subsection 1 pertaining to manufacturing establishments do not apply to minors 14 years of age or older and under 16 years of age who are employed in retail establishments where any frozen dairy product or frozen dairy product mix or related food product is produced on the premises for retail sale locally, regardless of trade name or brand or coined name.

The provisions of subsection 1 pertaining to hotels or rooming houses do not apply to minors 14 years of age or older and under 16 years of age who are employed in outdoor occupations on the grounds of a hotel or who are employed in kitchens, dining rooms, recreational areas, lobbies and offices of a hotel. Minors 14 years of age or older and under 16 years of age are expressly prohibited from performing room service, housekeeping and making deliveries to guest rooms.

The provisions of subsection 1 pertaining to bakeries do not apply to minors 14 years of age or older and under 16 years of age who are employed in retail sales, product decorating, customer service operations or office work for these establishments, as long as the retail, decorating, customer service or office areas are in a room separate from any baking operation.

Notwithstanding other provisions of subsection 1, a minor 14 years of age or older and under 16 years of age may be employed at a commercial place of amusement operating at a permanent location, except that the minor may not be employed at games of chance as defined in Title 17, chapter 62 or hazardous occupations as determined by the director.

Subsection 1 does not apply to any minor under 16 years of age employed in a business solely owned by the minor's parents. A parent is prohibited from employing the parent's minor child in occupations declared hazardous by the director pursuant to section 772 and in accordance with 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 570.

A minor 14 years of age or older and under 16 years of age may not be employed when the distance between the workplace and the home of the minor, or any other factor, necessitates the minor's remaining away from home overnight.

[PL 2017, c. 286, §4 (NEW).]

3. Minors 16 and 17 years of age. A minor who is 16 years of age or older and under 18 years of age:

A. May perform work in both nonagricultural and agricultural employment not in direct contact with hazardous machinery or hazardous substances in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to section 772 and in accordance with 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 570; [PL 2017, c. 286, §4 (NEW).]

B. May perform work as a theatrical actor or film actor; [PL 2017, c. 286, §4 (NEW).]

C. May be employed by a parent, but a parent is prohibited from employing the parent's minor child who is 16 years of age or older and under 18 years of age in occupations declared hazardous by the director in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to section 772 and in accordance with 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 570; [PL 2017, c. 286, §4 (NEW).]

D. Is exempt from section 774, subsection 1, paragraphs A and C when performing work in the taking or catching of lobsters, fish or other marine organisms; and [PL 2017, c. 286, §4 (NEW).]

E. Who has graduated from high school, or who has successfully attained a high school equivalency diploma or its equivalent, and who has graduated from a vocational, career and technical or cooperative education program approved by the Department of Education and is hired by an employer to work in an occupation for which the minor has been trained and certified by the vocational program may work for that employer in that occupation. [PL 2019, c. 66, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2019, c. 66, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 286, §4 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 66, §1 (AMD).

§774. Hours of employment

1. Minors 16 and 17 years of age. A minor 16 years of age or older and under 18 years of age, enrolled in school, may not be employed as follows:

A. More than 50 hours in any week when the minor's school is not in session; [PL 2003, c. 53, §1 (AMD).]

B. More than 24 hours in any week when the minor's school is in session. In addition, the maximum weekly hours a minor may work is 50 hours during any week that the approved school calendar for the minor's school is less than 3 days or during the first or last week of the school calendar, regardless of how many days the minor's school is in session for the week. If requested, a school must provide verification of its closings to the minor's employer or the Department of Labor; [PL 2011, c. 174, §1 (AMD).]

C. More than 10 hours in any day when the minor's school is not in session; [PL 2003, c. 53, §1 (AMD).]

D. More than 6 hours in any day when the minor's school is in session, except that the minor may work up to 8 hours on the last scheduled day of the school week; [PL 2011, c. 174, §2 (AMD).]

E. More than 6 consecutive days; [PL 1993, c. 434, §3 (AMD).]

F. After 10:15 p.m. on a day preceding a day on which the minor's school is in session or after 12 midnight on a day that does not precede such a school day; or [PL 2011, c. 174, §3 (AMD).]

G. Before 7 a.m. on a day on which the minor's school is in session or before 5 a.m. on any other day. [PL 2003, c. 53, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2017, c. 286, §5 (AMD).]

2. Minors under 16 years of age. A minor under 16 years of age may not be employed as follows:

A. More than 40 hours in any week when school is not in session; [PL 1991, c. 544, §5 (NEW).]

B. More than 18 hours in any week when school is in session; [PL 1991, c. 544, §5 (NEW).]

C. More than 8 hours in any day when school is not in session; [PL 1991, c. 544, §5 (NEW).]

D. More than 3 hours in any day when school is in session; [PL 1991, c. 544, §5 (NEW).]

E. More than 6 consecutive days; or [PL 1991, c. 544, §5 (NEW).]

F. Between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. except during summer vacation, when that minor may not work between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. [PL 1993, c. 434, §4 (AMD).]

[PL 1993, c. 434, §4 (AMD).]

3. Employment during hours school in session. A minor under 17 years of age may not be employed during the hours that the public schools of the town or city in which the minor resides are in session.

A. This subsection does not apply to:

(1) A minor who has been excused from attendance by school officials in accordance with Title 20-A, section 5001-A, subsection 2 or subsection 3, except that a minor who has been excused in accordance with subsection 3 may not be employed during the hours that the minor's school or approved home instruction program is in session;

(2) A student in an alternative education plan that includes a work experience component;

(3) A student in an approved vocational cooperative education program; or

- (4) A student who is granted permission for an early school release by the school principal.
[PL 1991, c. 713, §2 (AMD).]

The hours worked by a student in an alternative education plan or in an approved vocational cooperative education program may not be included in determining the student's total hours of permitted employment under subsection 1 and subsection 2.
[PL 1991, c. 713, §2 (AMD).]

4. Exemptions. Work performed in the planting, cultivating or harvesting of field crops or other agricultural employment, including the initial processing of farm crops, not in direct contact with hazardous machinery or hazardous substances, work performed as an employed or in-training theatrical actor or film actor or work performed as a summer camp employee in a youth camp licensed under Title 22, section 2495 is exempt from this section, provided a minor under 16 years of age has been excused by the local superintendent of schools in accordance with the policy established by the Commissioner of Education and the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards. Work performed in the taking or catching of lobsters, fish or other marine organisms by any methods or means, or in the operating of ferries or excursion boats, is exempt from subsection 1, paragraphs A and C.
[PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §23 (AMD).]

5. Application. This section does not apply to a person who holds a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate issued pursuant to Title 20-A, section 257 or to a minor emancipated pursuant to Title 15, section 3506-A.
[PL 1991, c. 713, §4 (NEW).]

6. In session. School is considered in session if the students are required to be in attendance by the school board pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 211.
[PL 1997, c. 131, §2 (NEW).]

7. Record of work hours of minors. Every employer shall keep a time book or record for every minor employed in any occupation, except household work or the planting, cultivating or harvesting of field crops or other agricultural employment not in direct contact with hazardous machinery or hazardous substances, stating the number of hours worked by each minor on each day of the week. The time book or record must be open at all reasonable hours to the inspection of the director, a deputy of the director or any authorized agent of the bureau. An employer who fails to keep the time book or record required by this subsection or who makes any false entry to the time book or record, refuses to exhibit the time book or record or makes any false statement to the director, a deputy of the director or any authorized agent of the bureau in reply to any question in carrying out this section is liable for a violation of this section and is subject to penalties specified in section 781.
[PL 2017, c. 219, §18 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 571, §59 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 59, §3 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 468, §3 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 310 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 700, §A102 (AMD). RR 1991, c. 1, §34 (COR). PL 1991, c. 544, §5 (RPR). PL 1991, c. 713, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 434, §§3-5 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 131, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 53, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §23 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 174, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 219, §18 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 286, §5 (AMD).

§775. Work permits

1. Work permit authority. A minor under 16 years of age may not be employed without a work permit signed by the superintendent of schools of the school administrative unit in which the minor resides and issued to the minor by the bureau. The superintendent may designate a school official to sign a work permit and that official is directly responsible to the superintendent for this activity.
[PL 2001, c. 398, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

2. Conditions for signature. The superintendent shall sign a permit in the following circumstances:

A. If the school is in session or the minor is attending summer school, the minor must be enrolled in school, not truant, not under suspension and passing a majority of courses during the current grading period. Upon request of the minor, the superintendent may waive the requirements for one grading period if, in the opinion of the superintendent, there are extenuating circumstances or if imposing the requirements would create an undue hardship for the minor; [PL 2011, c. 614, §21 (AMD).]

B. If school is not in session, the minor must furnish to the superintendent a certificate signed by the principal of the school last attended showing that the minor has satisfactorily completed kindergarten to grade 8 in the public schools or their equivalent. If the certificate can not be obtained, the superintendent shall examine the minor to determine whether the minor meets these educational standards; [PL 1991, c. 713, §5 (AMD); PL 1991, c. 713, §9 (AFF).]

C. If the minor has been granted an exception to compulsory education under Title 20-A, section 5001-A, subsection 2, the minor must only submit proof of age as provided in subsection 3; or [PL 1991, c. 713, §5 (AMD); PL 1991, c. 713, §9 (AFF).]

D. If school is in session, the superintendent may have signed only one work permit for the minor at any given time. The superintendent may sign 2 work permits for the minor for the summer vacation period. [PL 2001, c. 398, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2011, c. 614, §21 (AMD).]

3. Proof of age. The superintendent may issue a permit only upon receiving and examining satisfactory evidence of the minor's age. Satisfactory evidence consists of a certified copy of the minor's birth certificate or baptismal record, a passport showing the date of birth or other documentary evidence of age satisfactory to the superintendent and approved by the director. The superintendent may require, in doubtful cases, a certificate signed by a physician appointed by the school board, stating that the minor has been examined and, in that physician's opinion, has reached the normal development of a minor of the same age and is in sufficiently sound health and physically able to perform the work the minor intends to do.

[PL 2001, c. 398, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

3-A. Issuance of work permit. The director or the director's agent shall issue the work permit to the minor upon verification:

A. Of the proper approval by the superintendent or other designated school official; and [PL 2001, c. 398, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. That the employment conforms with the provisions of this subchapter. [PL 2001, c. 398, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

The superintendent's office shall distribute the work permit to the minor. The work permit is valid only for the employer and positions listed on the permit as issued by the bureau.

[PL 2001, c. 398, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

4. Conditions for revocation. The superintendent may revoke the work permit issued to a minor by the bureau if the superintendent determines that the minor has not maintained the conditions for issuance of the work permit under subsection 2, paragraph A. The superintendent shall revoke 2nd work permits at the end of the summer vacation in accordance with the limits imposed by subsection 2, paragraph D. The superintendent shall notify the director and the minor's employer in writing upon revoking a minor's work permit. The revocation is effective upon receipt by the employer of the superintendent's notice.

The bureau may revoke the work permit if the director determines the minor has not been employed in accordance with section 771, section 772, section 773-A or section 774 or if the bureau has determined that the permit was improperly signed. The director shall notify the superintendent and the minor's employer in writing upon revoking a minor's work permit.

[PL 2017, c. 286, §6 (AMD).]

5. Permit on file. The employer shall keep all work permits issued for the employer's minor employees on file and accessible to any attendance officer or agent of the director charged with the enforcement of this subchapter.

[PL 2017, c. 286, §7 (AMD).]

6. Exception. This section does not apply to minors engaged in work performed in the planting, cultivating or harvesting of field crops or other agricultural employment not in direct contact with hazardous machinery or hazardous substances or to minors engaged in household work. Minors who are participants in summer youth employment and training programs funded by the Department of Labor are exempt from obtaining individual permits as long as the program employing the minor has submitted a notice to the director.

[PL 2017, c. 286, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 272, §3 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 571, §60 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 59, §3 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 468, §4 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 700, §A103 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §5 (RPR). PL 1991, c. 713, §§5-7 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 713, §9 (AFF). PL 1993, c. 527, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 398, §A1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 614, §21 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 286, §§6-8 (AMD).

§776. -- part time and vacation work

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 544, §6 (RP).

§777. Permit formats

The blank work permit required by section 775 must be formulated by the director and furnished by appropriate means by the director to the persons authorized to sign work permits. The forms of the permits must be approved by the Office of the Attorney General. Permit forms may be made available by the bureau and submitted in paper or electronic format as long as the parent's or guardian's signature is submitted to the superintendent. [PL 2017, c. 286, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §7 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 527, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 398, §A2 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 286, §9 (AMD).

§778. Blank employment certificates prepared; notice when employment terminated

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 620, §13 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §8 (RP).

§779. Record of age received as evidence

Any record of age, as provided under section 775 to determine whether or not a work permit may be issued to any child, shall be received as evidence of the age of such child in any prosecution under this subchapter.

§780. Work permit conclusive for employer; documentary evidence of age

A work permit in regular form signed by a duly authorized officer, for all minors under 16 years of age, is conclusive evidence of age and educational attainment, in behalf of the employer of any minor, upon any prosecution for violation of the law relating to the employment of minors. An inspector of factories, attendance officer or other officer charged with the enforcement of this subchapter may make demand on any employer in or about whose place or establishment a minor apparently under the age of 16 years is employed, permitted or suffered to work, that such employer shall either furnish the inspector within 10 days documentary evidence of age as specified in section 775, or shall cease to employ, permit or suffer such minor to work in such place or establishment. [PL 1991, c. 544, §9 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 544, §9 (AMD).

§781. Penalties

1. Strict liability. An employer who employs, permits or suffers any minor to be employed or to work in violation of this article or Title 20-A, section 5054 is subject to the following forfeiture or civil penalty, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action:

A. For the first violation or a violation not subject to an enhanced sanction under paragraph B or C, a forfeiture or penalty of not less than \$250 nor more than \$5,000; [PL 1991, c. 544, §10 (NEW).]

B. For a 2nd violation occurring within 3 years of a prior adjudication, a forfeiture or penalty of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000; or [PL 1991, c. 544, §10 (NEW).]

C. For a 3rd and subsequent violation occurring within 3 years of 2 or more prior adjudications, a penalty of not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$10,000. [RR 2009, c. 2, §72 (COR).]

[RR 2009, c. 2, §72 (COR).]

1-A. De minimis violations of section 774. Notwithstanding subsection 1, absent a finding that reasonably suggests a pattern of knowing and intentional conduct, the bureau may disregard the following violations of section 774:

A. A violation of the limits on the time that work may begin or end under section 774, subsection 1, paragraph F or G or section 774, subsection 2, paragraph F, as long as the violation is no greater than 10 minutes per day; [RR 2001, c. 1, §39 (COR).]

B. A violation of the number of hours a minor may work in any day under section 774, subsection 1, paragraph B, C or D or section 774, subsection 2, paragraph C or D, as long as the violation is not greater than 10 minutes per day; and [PL 2001, c. 46, §1 (NEW).]

C. A violation of the number of hours worked in a week under section 774, subsection 1, paragraph A or B or section 774, subsection 2, paragraph A or B, as long as the violation is not greater than 50 minutes in a week. [PL 2001, c. 46, §1 (NEW).]

[RR 2001, c. 1, §39 (COR).]

2. Intentional or knowing violation of section 771, 772 or 773-A. An employer who intentionally or knowingly employs, permits or suffers any minor to be employed or to work in violation of section 771, 772 or 773-A is subject to the following fines, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action:

A. For the first violation or a violation not subject to an enhanced sanction under paragraph B or C, a fine of not less than \$500; [PL 2017, c. 286, §10 (AMD).]

B. For a 2nd violation occurring within 3 years of a prior adjudication, a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$20,000; or [PL 2017, c. 286, §10 (AMD).]

C. For a 3rd and subsequent violation occurring within 3 years of 2 or more prior adjudications, a fine of not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$50,000. [PL 2017, c. 286, §10 (AMD).]
[PL 2017, c. 286, §10 (AMD).]

3. Adjudications. As used in this section, a prior adjudication includes a consent decree that contains an admission of a violation. The dates of prior adjudications for any violation or a combination of violations must precede the commission of the violation being enhanced, although prior adjudications involving a combination may have occurred on the same day. The date of any adjudication is the date the forfeiture or penalty is adjudged or the consent decree allowed, even though an appeal was taken.

[PL 1991, c. 544, §10 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 665, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 415, §33 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 544, §10 (RPR). RR 2001, c. 1, §39 (COR). PL 2001, c. 46, §1 (AMD). RR 2009, c. 2, §72 (COR). PL 2017, c. 286, §10 (AMD).

§782. Parent, guardian or custodian

1. Permitting or allowing child to work. A person who has control over a child as parent, guardian, custodian or otherwise may not permit or allow the child to be employed or to work in violation of this subchapter.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

2. Work permit containing false information. A person may not present, or permit or allow a child over which the person has control to present, to an employer, owner or superintendent or an overseer or agent as required under section 775 a work permit containing a false statement as to the date of birth or age of the child, knowing it to be false.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

3. Penalties. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$10 and not more than \$50 for each offense may be adjudged.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §2 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 452, §O2 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF).

§783. Failure to perform duties of office

A person who, being authorized to issue a work permit, knowingly fails to perform the duties of that person's office as required by this subchapter must be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$50 for each offense. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §27 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §27 (COR).

§784. -- certification of false statements

Whoever, being authorized to sign the work permit, or whoever, signing any certified copy of a town clerk's record of birth, or certified copy of a child's baptismal record or a physician's certificate, knowingly certifies to any false statement therein shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$50, for each offense.

§785. Rulemaking

The Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards may adopt rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II that are consistent with this subchapter and considered appropriate or necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this subchapter. [PL 1993, c. 434, §6 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 434, §6 (NEW).

§786. Traffic control duties

1. Traffic control duties permitted. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, a minor who is 14 years of age or older and is a volunteer participant in a career-oriented law enforcement program may perform traffic control duties in accordance with this section.

[PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

2. Training. A minor may not perform traffic control duties under this section until the minor has received traffic control training in accordance with the requirements of the supervising law enforcement agency. Proof of the minor's successful completion of the training must be maintained by the law enforcement agency.

[PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

3. Supervision. A minor may perform traffic control duties only under direct supervision of a law enforcement officer as part of a career-oriented law enforcement program. This supervision must:

A. Be from a close distance so that the officer does not become distracted or perform other duties; and [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

B. Include means of radio contact in the event that the minor needs to contact another officer for assistance. [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

4. Limitations on events. A minor may perform traffic control duties only at civic events, fair parking lots, parades, walks, foot races, car shows and charity events.

[PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

5. Limitations on locations. A minor may not:

A. Direct traffic or pedestrians on busy roadways or thoroughfares; [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

B. Assist in traffic control at places of heightened danger such as traffic stops or roadblocks; [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

C. Direct traffic in conjunction with crowd control or riot control; [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

D. Collect donations at a traffic light; [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

E. Direct traffic at funeral processions; or [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

F. Direct traffic at the scene of an emergency. [PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

6. Night activities prohibited. A minor may perform the activities authorized under this section only during the period from sunrise to sunset.

[PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 142, §2 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 4-A**EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED****§791. Legal identity**

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§792. Membership representation**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§793. Committee tenures**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§794. Nonpartisan status**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§795. Committee officers**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§796. Primary duties**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§797. Authorization**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§798. Expenses of committee members; payment; office**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 478, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 176, §A8 (RP).

§799. Committee**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 176, §A9 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 295, §38 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 49, §4 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 410, §5 (RP).

§800. Membership

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 176, §A9 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 819, §A57 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 600, §A20 (AMD).
PL 1997, c. 410, §6 (RP).

§801. Powers and duties**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 176, §A9 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 49, §5 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 600, §§A21,22 (AMD).
PL 1997, c. 410, §7 (RP).

§802. Administrative authority**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 176, §A9 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 295, §39 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 785, §B116 (AMD).
PL 1997, c. 410, §8 (RP).

§803. Authorization**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 600, §A23 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 683, §D2 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 4-B**SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICIES****§806. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

1. Commission. "Commission" means the Maine Human Rights Commission described in Title 5, chapter 337, subchapter II.

[PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

1-A. Department. "Department" means the Department of Labor.

[PL 2017, c. 162, §1 (NEW).]

2. Employee. "Employee" means any person engaged to work on a steady or regular basis, whether full-time or part-time, by an employer located or doing business in the State.

[PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

3. Employer. "Employer" means any person, partnership, firm, association, corporation, employment agency, labor organization, joint apprenticeship committee or other legal entity, public or private, that is located or doing business in the State. The term "employer" includes, but is not limited to:

A. Any person, partnership, firm, association or corporation acting in the interest of any employer, directly or indirectly; and [PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

B. The State in its capacity as an employer. [PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

4. Sexual harassment. "Sexual harassment" has the same meaning as found in rules adopted by the Maine Human Rights Commission under the Maine Human Rights Act, Title 5, section 4572. [PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 162, §1 (AMD).

§807. Requirements

In addition to employer responsibilities set forth in rules adopted under Title 5, section 4572, all employers shall act to ensure a workplace free of sexual harassment by implementing the following minimum requirements. [PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

1. Workplace posting. An employer shall post in a prominent and accessible location in the workplace a poster providing, at a minimum, the following information: the illegality of sexual harassment; a description of sexual harassment, utilizing examples; the complaint process available through the commission; and directions on how to contact the commission. The text of this poster may meet but may not exceed 6th-grade literacy standards. The commission may provide this poster to employers at no charge. This poster must also be available on the department's publicly accessible website and may be reproduced. [PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (AMD).]

2. Employee notification. Employers shall provide annually all employees with individual written notice that includes at a minimum the following information: the illegality of sexual harassment; the definition of sexual harassment under state law; a description of sexual harassment, utilizing examples; the internal complaint process available to the employee; the legal recourse and complaint process available through the commission; directions on how to contact the commission; and the protection against retaliation as provided pursuant to Title 5, section 4553, subsection 10, paragraph D. This notice must be initially provided within 90 days after the effective date of this subchapter. The notice must be delivered in a manner to ensure notice to all employees without exception, such as including the notice with an employee's pay. [PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW).]

3. Education and training. In workplaces with 15 or more employees, employers shall conduct an education and training program for all new employees within one year of commencement of employment. Training provided under this subsection must include the illegality of sexual harassment; the definition of sexual harassment under state and federal laws and federal regulations, including the Maine Human Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 United States Code, Title VII, Sections 2000e to 2000e-17; a description of sexual harassment, utilizing examples; the internal complaint process available to the employee; the legal recourse and complaint process available through the commission; directions on how to contact the commission; and the protection against retaliation as provided under Title 5, section 4553, subsection 10, paragraph D. Employers shall conduct additional training for supervisory and managerial employees within one year of commencement of employment that includes, at a minimum, the specific responsibilities of supervisory and managerial employees and methods that these employees must take to ensure immediate and appropriate corrective action in addressing sexual harassment complaints.

Education and training programs conducted under this subsection by the State, a county or a municipality for its public safety personnel, including, but not limited to, law enforcement personnel, corrections personnel and firefighters, may be used to meet training and education requirements mandated by any other law, rule or other official requirement. [PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (AMD).]

4. Compliance checklist. The department shall develop a compliance checklist for employers covering the requirements under subsection 3. The checklist must be made available on the

department's publicly accessible website. The commission shall provide a link to the compliance checklist on the commission's publicly accessible website. Employers shall use the checklist to develop a sexual harassment training program and shall keep a record of the training, including a record of employees who have received the required training. Training records must be maintained for at least 3 years and must be made available for department inspection upon request.

[PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (NEW).]

5. Enforcement. The department shall enforce the notification requirement under this section and, upon inspection or complaint, shall ensure that employers have provided the training as required by subsection 3. If the department has determined that an employer has complied with the provisions of this subchapter, that determination and all completed department enforcement actions are considered final. Department actions under this subchapter do not limit or affect the authority or jurisdiction of the commission.

The commission may request department enforcement records related to a complaint filed with the commission when the complaint is related to this subsection. Such records are subject to section 3.

[PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (NEW).]

6. Penalties for violations. An employer who violates this section may be assessed a fine by the department in accordance with this subsection.

A. An employer who violates the workplace posting requirement in subsection 1 may be assessed:

- (1) For the first violation, a fine of up to \$25 per day, not to exceed \$1,000;
- (2) For a 2nd violation occurring within 3 years of a prior violation, a fine of not less than \$25 per day up to \$50 per day, not to exceed \$2,500; and
- (3) For a 3rd or subsequent violation occurring within 3 years of 2 or more prior violations, a fine of not less than \$25 per day up to \$100 per day, not to exceed \$5,000. [PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (NEW).]

B. An employer who violates the notification, education or training requirements set forth in subsection 2 or 3 may be assessed:

- (1) For the first violation, a fine of \$1,000;
- (2) For a 2nd violation, a fine of \$2,500; and
- (3) For a 3rd or subsequent violation, a fine of \$5,000. [PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 474, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 162, §2 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 4-C

FIREFIGHTER OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSON; ABSENCE FROM WORK

§809. Absence for emergency response

1. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employer" means any private or public employer, including the State and political subdivisions of the State. [PL 2005, c. 296, §1 (NEW).]

A-1. "Firefighter" has the same meaning as "municipal firefighter" and "volunteer firefighter" in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsections 2 and 4. [PL 2013, c. 477, §1 (NEW).]

A-2. "Emergency medical services person" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12 and includes a volunteer emergency medical services person. [PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Responding to an emergency" means responding to, working at the scene of or returning from a fire or emergency medical services call, a hazardous or toxic materials spill and cleanup or any other situation to which the fire department or emergency medical services provider has been dispatched. [PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2013, c. 477, §2 (RP).]
[PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (AMD).]

2. Prohibition against discharge or disciplinary action. An employer may not discharge or take any other disciplinary action against or otherwise discriminate against an employee because of the employee's failure to report for work at the beginning of the employee's regular working hours or the employee's absence during the employee's regular working hours if the employee failed to do so or was absent because the employee was responding to an emergency in the employee's capacity as a firefighter or emergency medical services person and the employee reported for work as soon as reasonably possible after being released from the emergency. An employer may charge the lost time against the employee's regular pay or against the employee's available leave time. This subsection does not apply to the absence of a firefighter or emergency medical services person from that person's regular employment as a law enforcement officer, a utility worker or medical personnel when the services of that person are essential to protect public health or safety or if the employee has been designated as essential by the employer pursuant to subsection 6.
[PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (AMD).]

3. Notification; verification. An employee responding to an emergency under subsection 2 shall make every effort to immediately notify the employer that the employee may be late arriving to work or absent from work as a result of responding to an emergency prior to or during the employee's regular working hours. Notification may be provided by the employee, the employee's designee or the fire department or the emergency medical services provider. At the request of an employer, an employee losing work time as provided in subsection 2 shall provide the employer with a statement from the chief of the fire department or emergency medical services provider or the chief's designee verifying that the employee was responding to an emergency and specifying the date, time and duration of the response.
[PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (AMD).]

4. Enforcement; penalty for violation. If an employer has violated subsection 2, the employee may bring an action in Superior Court in the county in which the employee resides or in the county in which the employer's place of business is located. The action must be brought within one year of the date of the alleged violation. If the court finds that the employer violated subsection 2, and if the employee so requests, the court shall order the employer to reinstate the employee in the employee's former position without reduction of pay, seniority or other benefits. The court also shall order any other appropriate remedy necessary to return the employee to the position the employee would have been in had the employer not violated subsection 2, including payment of back pay and reinstatement of any other benefits lost during the period in which the discharge or disciplinary action was in effect.
[PL 2005, c. 296, §1 (NEW).]

5. Impact on individual agreements. This section does not apply if the employer and the employee have entered into a written agreement, signed by the employer and the employee, that governs procedures to be followed when the employee is called to respond to an emergency as a firefighter or emergency medical services person.

A. [PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (RP).]

B. [PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (RP).]
[PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (AMD).]

6. Designation as essential. Upon receiving notice of an employee's status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person, an employer may designate the employee essential to the employer's operations when the absence of the employee would cause significant disruption of the employer's business. This designation must be made in writing and signed by both the employee and employer.

[PL 2021, c. 67, §1 (AMD).]

7. Information to be filed by employee with employer. This section applies only if:

A. The chief of the fire department or emergency medical services provider has a written policy that:

- (1) Specifies the circumstances under which firefighters or emergency medical services persons are needed to respond to an emergency; and
- (2) Affirms that firefighters or emergency medical services persons will be released as soon as practicable; and [PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (NEW).]

B. The employee presents a copy of the policy described in paragraph A to the employer within 30 days of notifying the employer of the employee's status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person. [PL 2021, c. 67, §2 (AMD).]

An employee shall notify the employer of any change to the employee's status as a firefighter or emergency medical services person, including the termination of that status, within 30 days of the change.

[PL 2021, c. 67, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 296, §1 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 477, §§1-6 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 218, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 67, §§1, 2 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 4-D

SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS; ABSENCE FROM WORK

§810. Absence for emergency response

1. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employer" means any private or public employer, including the State and political subdivisions of the State. [PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Recognized organization" means a nonprofit search and rescue organization recognized by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Warden Service. [PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Search and rescue" means a search, rescue or search and rescue. [PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

D. "Search and rescue volunteer" means a person who is certified in search and rescue practices and procedures by a recognized organization. [PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

2. Prohibition against discharge or disciplinary action. An employer may not discharge or take any other disciplinary action against or otherwise discriminate against an employee because of the employee's failure to report for work at the beginning of the employee's regular working hours or the employee's absence during the employee's regular working hours if the employee's failure to report or absence was because the employee was responding to a search and rescue operation requested by a law enforcement agency in the employee's capacity as a search and rescue volunteer and the employee reported for work as soon as reasonably possible after being released from the search and rescue operation. An employer may charge the lost time against the employee's regular pay or against the employee's available leave time. This subsection does not apply to the absence of an employee if the employee has been designated as essential by the employer pursuant to subsection 6.
[PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

3. Notification; verification. An employee responding as a search and rescue volunteer to a search and rescue operation, the employee's designee or the search and rescue operation supervisor shall make every effort to immediately notify the employer that the employee may be late arriving to work or absent from work as a result of responding to a search and rescue operation requested by a law enforcement agency prior to or during the employee's regular working hours. At the request of an employer, an employee losing work time as provided in subsection 2 shall provide the employer with a statement from the official in charge of the recognized organization, the official's designee or a law enforcement official responsible for the search and rescue operation verifying that the employee was responding to a search and rescue operation and specifying the date and time of release from the operation.
[PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

4. Enforcement; penalty for violation. If an employer has violated subsection 2, the employee may bring an action in Superior Court in the county in which the employee resides or in the county in which the employer's place of business is located. The action must be brought within one year of the date of the alleged violation. If the court finds that the employer violated subsection 2 and if the employee so requests, the court shall order the employer to reinstate the employee in the employee's former position without reduction of pay, seniority or other benefits. The court also shall order any other appropriate remedy necessary to return the employee to the position the employee would have been in had the employer not violated subsection 2, including payment of back pay and reinstatement of any other benefits lost during the period in which the discharge or disciplinary action was in effect.
[PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

5. Individual agreements. This section does not apply if the employer and the employee have entered into a written agreement, signed by the employer and the employee, that governs procedures to be followed when the employee is called to respond to a search and rescue operation as a search and rescue volunteer.
[PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

6. Designation as essential. Upon receiving notice of an employee's search and rescue volunteer status, an employer may designate the employee essential to the employer's operations if the absence of the employee would cause significant disruption of the employer's business. This designation must be made in writing and signed by both the employee and the employer.
[PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

7. Information to be filed by the employee with the employer. This section applies only if:

A. The recognized organization in charge of calling out search and rescue volunteers has a written policy that:

- (1) Specifies the circumstances under which search and rescue volunteers will be ordered to remain at a search and rescue operation; and

(2) Affirms that search and rescue volunteers will be released as soon as practicable; and [PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

B. The employee presents a copy of the policy described in paragraph A to the employer upon notifying the employer of the employee's status as a search and rescue volunteer, within 30 days of employment or within 180 days of the effective date of this subsection. [PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

An employee shall notify the employer of any change to the employee's status as a search and rescue volunteer, including termination of that status within 30 days of the change.

[PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 329, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 5

LEAVE RELATING TO RESERVE TRAINING OR MILITARY SERVICE

§811. Preservation of status

1. Intent. The intent of this subchapter is to minimize the disruption to the lives of persons performing service in the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces as well as to their employers, their fellow employees and their communities by providing for the prompt reemployment of these persons upon their satisfactory completion of military service and to prohibit discrimination against these persons because of their military service.

[PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (AMD).]

2. Military leave of absence. Any member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces is entitled to a military leave of absence from a position with any public or private employer, in response to state or federal military orders. The military member shall:

A. Give prior reasonable notice, if reasonable under the military circumstances, to the member's employer of the anticipated absence for military duty; and [PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (AMD).]

B. If the employer so requests, obtain a confirmation from the Adjutant General or applicable reserve component headquarters of the anticipated military duty and satisfactory completion of the member's military duties. [PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (AMD).]

[PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (AMD).]

3. Reinstatement. Any person who is in compliance with subsection 2 and is still qualified to perform the duties of such position must be reinstated at the same pay, seniority, benefits and status and receive any other incidences of advantages of employment as if the person had remained continuously employed. The period of absence must be construed as an absence with leave and, within the discretion of the employer, the leave may be with pay. The employer may not require any person returning from a period of military service to report back to work:

A. For periods of military service of 3 days or less, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 24 hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence; [PL 2005, c. 524, §1 (NEW).]

B. For periods of military service of more than 3 days but not more than 15 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 48 hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence; [PL 2005, c. 524, §1 (NEW).]

C. For periods of military service of more than 15 days but not more than 30 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 72 hours after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence; [PL 2005, c. 524, §1 (NEW).]

D. For periods of military service of more than 30 days but not more than 180 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 14 days after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence; or [PL 2005, c. 524, §1 (NEW).]

E. For periods of military service of more than 180 days, until the completion of the period of service and the expiration of 90 days after a period allowing for the safe transportation of the person from the place of that service to the person's residence. [PL 2005, c. 524, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 524, §1 (AMD).]

4. Disability. A person who is in compliance with subsection 2 but who has a disability incurred in or aggravated during the military service for which that person was absent and who, after reasonable efforts by the employer to accommodate the disability, is not qualified due to that disability to be employed in the position of employment in which the member would have been employed if the member had remained continuously employed must be reinstated without loss of seniority, benefits, status and any other incidences of advantages of employment:

A. To any other position that is equivalent in pay, seniority, benefits, status and any other incidences of advantages of employment, the duties of which the person is qualified to perform or would become qualified to perform with reasonable efforts by the employer; or [PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (NEW).]

B. To a position that is the nearest approximation to a position referred to in paragraph A in terms of pay, seniority, benefits, status and any other incidences or advantages of employment consistent with circumstances of the person's case. [PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (NEW).]

5. Employer defined. As used in this section, "employer" means any person, institution, organization or other entity that pays salary or wages for work performed or that has control over employment opportunities, including a person, institution, organization or other entity to whom the employer has delegated the performance of employment-related responsibilities; the Federal Government; the State and any subdivision or agency of the State; and any successor in interest to a person, institution, organization, or other entity referred to in this subsection.

[PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 285, §1 (RPR). PL 1987, c. 769, §A105 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 662, §11 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 524, §1 (AMD).

§812. Right to benefits retained

1. Benefits accrual. Absence for military training as described in section 811 does not affect the employee's right to receive normal vacation, sick leave, bonus, advancement and other advantages of employment normally to be anticipated in the employee's particular position.

[PL 2001, c. 662, §12 (NEW).]

2. Extension of insurance benefits. Insurance benefits must be extended according to this subsection.

A. A public or private employer shall continue, at no additional cost to the member, the existing health, dental and life insurance benefits for at least the first 30 days of the military duty for any member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces if the member

takes a military leave of absence from a position with that employer, other than a temporary position, in response to state or federal military orders. [PL 2001, c. 662, §12 (NEW).]

B. After the expiration of the first 30 days of military leave, the member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces has the option of continuing the health, dental and life insurance benefits in effect at the member's own expense by paying the insurance premium at the same rates as paid by the employer. [PL 2001, c. 662, §12 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 662, §12 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 662, §12 (RPR).

§813. Remedies

1. Action authorized. If any employer fails to comply with any of the provisions of sections 811 and 812, the Attorney General or employee may bring a civil action for damages for such noncompliance or apply to the courts for such equitable relief as may be just and proper under the circumstances.

[PL 2019, c. 341, §2 (AMD).]

2. Award of fees; costs. In any civil action under section 811 or 812, the court in its discretion may award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to any prevailing member of the National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

[PL 2019, c. 341, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 662, §12 (RPR). PL 2019, c. 341, §2 (AMD).

§814. Family military leave

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Deployed for military service" or "deployment" means active military duty with the state military forces, as defined in Title 37-B, section 102, or the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, whether pursuant to orders of the Governor or the President of the United States, when the duty assignment is in a combat theater or in an area where armed conflict is taking place. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

B. "Employee" means any person who may be permitted, required or directed by an employer in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit to engage in any employment and who has been employed by the same employer for at least 12 months and has been employed for at least 1,250 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the employee's family military leave. [PL 2007, c. 388, §1 (AMD).]

C. "Employee benefits" means all benefits, other than salary and wages, provided or made available to employees by an employer and includes group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance and pensions, regardless of whether benefits are provided by a policy or practice of an employer. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

D. "Employer" means:

- (1) Any person, partnership, corporation, association or other business entity; and
- (2) The State, a county, a municipality or any political subdivision. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

E. "Family military leave" means leave requested by an employee who is the spouse, domestic partner or parent of a person who is a resident of the State and is deployed for military service for

a period lasting longer than 180 days with the State or United States pursuant to the orders of the Governor or the President of the United States. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 388, §1 (AMD).]

2. Family military leave requirement. Subject to the requirements of subsection 3, an employer that employs 15 or more employees shall provide each eligible employee up to 15 days of family military leave per deployment, if requested by the employee. Family military leave under this subsection may be taken only during one or more of the following time frames:

- A. The 15 days immediately prior to deployment; [PL 2007, c. 388, §2 (NEW).]
- B. Deployment, if the military member is granted leave; or [PL 2007, c. 388, §2 (NEW).]
- C. The 15 days immediately following the period of deployment. [PL 2007, c. 388, §2 (NEW).]

Family military leave granted under this section may consist of unpaid leave.
[PL 2007, c. 388, §2 (RPR).]

3. Notice requirements. An employee taking family military leave under this section is subject to the following.

- A. The employee must give at least 14 days' notice of the intended date upon which the family military leave will commence if leave will consist of 5 or more consecutive work days. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]
- B. An employee taking family military leave for fewer than 5 consecutive work days must give the employer advance notice as is practicable. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]
- C. The employee shall consult with the employer to attempt to schedule the leave so as to not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

4. Certification. An employer may require certification from the proper military authority to verify an employee's eligibility for the family military leave requested pursuant to this section.
[PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

5. Restoration to position. An employee who exercises the right to family military leave under this section is entitled, upon expiration of the leave, to be restored by the employer to the position held by the employee when the leave commenced or to a position with equivalent seniority status, employee benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. This subsection does not apply if the employer proves that the employee was not restored as provided in this subsection because of conditions unrelated to the employee's exercise of rights under this section.
[PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

6. Employee benefits protection. An employer shall make it possible for an employee to continue employee benefits at the employee's expense during any family military leave taken under this section. The employer and employee may negotiate for the employer to maintain employee benefits at the employer's expense for the duration of the leave.

- A. Taking family military leave under this section does not result in the loss of any employee benefit accrued before the date on which the leave commenced. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]
- B. Nothing in this section may be construed to affect an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan that provides greater leave rights to employees than the rights provided under this section. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]
- C. The family military leave rights provided under this section may not be diminished by any collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

D. Nothing in this section may be construed to affect or diminish the contract rights or seniority status of any other employee of any employer covered under this section. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

7. Prohibited acts. An employer may not:

A. Interfere with, restrain or deny the exercise or the attempt to exercise any right provided under this section; [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

B. Discharge, fine, suspend, expel, discipline or in any other manner discriminate against any employee who exercises any right provided under this section; or [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

C. Discharge, fine, suspend, expel, discipline or in any other manner discriminate against any employee for opposing any practice made unlawful by this section. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

8. Enforcement. An employee may bring a civil action in Superior Court to enforce this section. The court may enjoin any act or practice that violates or may violate this section and may order any other equitable relief that is necessary and appropriate to redress the violation or to enforce this section. [PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 523, §2 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 388, §§1, 2 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 5-A

LEAVE OF ABSENCE AS LEGISLATOR

§821. Person employed in position other than temporary

A person, except a person covered under Title 20-A, section 13602, employed in a position other than a temporary position must be granted a leave of absence to fulfill the duties of a Legislator as long as the employee gives written notice to the employee's employer of the employee's intent to become a candidate for the Legislature within 10 days after taking action under Title 21-A to place the employee's name on a primary or general election ballot. Following the employee's term of service as a Legislator, the employee, if the employee is still qualified to perform the duties of the position from which the employee was granted leave, is entitled to be restored to the employee's previous, or a similar, position with the same status, pay and seniority. This leave of absence may, within the discretion of the employer, be with or without pay and is limited to one legislative term of 2 years. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §28 (COR).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §821. Short title (As enacted by PL 1983, c. 452 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 831)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1985, c. 161, §7 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 402, §A154 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §28 (COR).

§822. Exception for employer with 5 or fewer employees

This subchapter is not applicable if the employer employs 5 or fewer persons immediately prior to the first day of the leave of absence. [PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §822. Definitions (As enacted by PL 1983, c. 452 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 832)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

§823. Waiver of right

An employee who fails to provide the notice to the employee's employer required by section 821 waives any rights to a leave of absence provided by this subchapter. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §29 (COR).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §823. Discharge of, threats to or discrimination against employee for reporting violations of law or refusing to carry out illegal directives (As enacted by PL 1983, c. 452 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 833)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §29 (COR).

§824. Appeal by employer

1. Request. An employer who feels that granting the leave of absence required by this subchapter will cause unreasonable hardship for the employer's business may appeal for relief by filing a written notice of appeal with the chair of the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation. If the notice of appeal is not filed within 14 days of receipt of the employee's notice requesting a leave of absence, the employer waives the right to appeal. The notice of appeal must state the name of the employee and the reasons for the alleged unreasonable hardship. Payment for the services of a member of the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation must be shared by the parties in accordance with section 931. This section provides the exclusive remedy for an employer claiming unreasonable hardship as a result of a request for leave of absence.

[PL 2005, c. 119, §1 (AMD).]

2. Proceedings. The chair of the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, or any member of the board designated by the chair, shall serve as an arbitrator of any case appealed under this section. The proceeding must provide an opportunity for the employee to respond, orally or in writing, to the allegations contained in the appeal. Within 30 days of receipt of the notice of appeal, the arbitrator shall issue an order, binding on both parties, either affirming or denying the claim of unreasonable hardship. If the claim is affirmed, the employee is not entitled to a leave of absence under this subchapter. In reaching a decision, the arbitrator shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors:

A. The length of time the employee has been employed by the employer; [PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW).]

B. The number of employees in the employer's business; [PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW).]

C. The nature of the employer's business; [PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW).]

D. The nature of the position held by the employee and the ease or difficulty and cost of temporarily filling the position during the leave of absence; and [PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW).]

E. Any agreement entered into between the employee and employer as a condition of employment. [PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW).]

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §30 (COR).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §824. Civil actions for injunctive relief or other remedies (As enacted by PL 1983, c. 452 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 834)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 128, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 2005, c. 119, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §30 (COR).

§825. Remedies ordered by court

(REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 835)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

§826. Penalties for violations

(REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 836)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

§827. Collective bargaining rights

(REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 837)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

§828. Compensation for employee participation in investigation, hearing or inquiry

(REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 838)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

§829. Notices of employee protections and obligations

(REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 839)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

§830. Jury trial; common-law rights

(REALLOCATED TO TITLE 26, SECTION 840)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

SUBCHAPTER 5-B

PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES WHO REPORT OR REFUSE TO COMMIT ILLEGAL ACTS

§831. Short title

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 821)

This subchapter may be cited as the "Whistleblowers' Protection Act." [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).

§832. Definitions

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 822)

As used in this subchapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

1. Employee. "Employee" means a person who performs a service for wages or other remuneration under a contract of hire, written or oral, expressed or implied, but does not include an independent contractor engaged in lobster fishing. "Employee" includes school personnel and a person employed by the State or a political subdivision of the State. [PL 1999, c. 351, §5 (AMD).]

2. Employer. "Employer" means a person who has one or more employees. "Employer" includes an agent of an employer and the State, or a political subdivision of the State. "Employer" also means all schools and local education agencies. [PL 1999, c. 351, §6 (AMD).]

3. Person. "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association or any other legal entity. [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

4. Public body. "Public body" means all of the following:

A. A state officer, employee, agency, department, division, bureau, board, commission, council, authority or other body in the executive branch of State Government; [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

B. An agency, board, commission, council, member or employee of the legislative branch of State Government; [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

C. A county, municipal, village, intercounty, intercity or regional governing body, a council, school district or municipal corporation, or a board, department, commission, council, agency or any member or employee thereof; [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

D. Any other body which is created by state or local authority or which is primarily funded by or through state or local authority, or any member or employee of that body; [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

E. A law enforcement agency or any member or employee of a law enforcement agency; and [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

F. The judiciary and any member or employee of the judiciary. [PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]
[PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1987, c. 402, §B21 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 351, §§5,6 (AMD).

§833. Discrimination against certain employees prohibited**(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 823)**

1. Discrimination prohibited. No employer may discharge, threaten or otherwise discriminate against an employee regarding the employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location or privileges of employment because:

A. The employee, acting in good faith, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, reports orally or in writing to the employer or a public body what the employee has reasonable cause to believe is a violation of a law or rule adopted under the laws of this State, a political subdivision of this State or the United States; [PL 1987, c. 782, §4 (NEW).]

B. The employee, acting in good faith, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, reports to the employer or a public body, orally or in writing, what the employee has reasonable cause to believe is a condition or practice that would put at risk the health or safety of that employee or any other individual. The protection from discrimination provided in this section specifically includes school personnel who report safety concerns to school officials with regard to a violent or disruptive student; [PL 1999, c. 351, §7 (AMD).]

C. The employee is requested to participate in an investigation, hearing or inquiry held by that public body, or in a court action; [PL 2003, c. 306, §1 (AMD).]

D. The employee acting in good faith has refused to carry out a directive to engage in activity that would be a violation of a law or rule adopted under the laws of this State, a political subdivision of this State or the United States or that would expose the employee or any individual to a condition that would result in serious injury or death, after having sought and been unable to obtain a correction of the illegal activity or dangerous condition from the employer; or [PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. A, §27 (RPR).]

E. The employee, acting in good faith and consistent with state and federal privacy laws, reports to the employer, to the patient involved or to the appropriate licensing, regulating or credentialing authority, orally or in writing, what the employee has reasonable cause to believe is an act or omission that constitutes a deviation from the applicable standard of care for a patient by an employer charged with the care of that patient. For purposes of this paragraph, "employer" means a health care provider, health care practitioner or health care entity as defined in Title 24, section 2502. [PL 2003, c. 306, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. A, §27 (AMD).]

2. Initial report to employer required; exception. Subsection 1 does not apply to an employee who has reported or caused to be reported a violation, or unsafe condition or practice to a public body, unless the employee has first brought the alleged violation, condition or practice to the attention of a person having supervisory authority with the employer and has allowed the employer a reasonable opportunity to correct that violation, condition or practice.

Prior notice to an employer is not required if the employee has specific reason to believe that reports to the employer will not result in promptly correcting the violation, condition or practice.

[PL 1987, c. 782, §4 (NEW).]

3. Reports of suspected abuse. An employee required to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation under Title 22, section 3477 or 4011-A, shall follow the requirements of those sections under those circumstances. No employer may discharge, threaten or otherwise discriminate against an employee regarding the employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location or privileges of employment because the employee followed the requirements of those sections.

[PL 2001, c. 345, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1987, c. 782, §4 (RPR). PL 1999, c. 351, §7 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 345, §7 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 306, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 357, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 688, §A27 (AMD).

§834. Civil actions for injunctive relief or other remedies

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 824)

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1983, c. 816, §A18 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 782, §5 (RP).

§834-A. Arbitration before the Maine Human Rights Commission

An employee who alleges a violation of that employee's rights under section 833, and who has complied with the requirements of section 833, subsection 2, may bring a complaint before the Maine Human Rights Commission for action under Title 5, section 4612. [PL 1987, c. 782, §6 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 782, §6 (NEW).

§835. Remedies ordered by court

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 825)

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1987, c. 782, §7 (RP).

§836. Penalties for violations

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 826)

A person who violates section 839 is liable for a civil fine of \$10 for each day of willful violation which shall not be suspended. Any civil fine imposed under this section shall be submitted to the Treasurer of State for deposit to the General Fund. [PL 1983, c. 816, Pt. A, §19 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1983, c. 816, §A19 (AMD).

§837. Collective bargaining rights

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 827)

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 2021, c. 589, §1 (RP).

§838. Compensation for employee participation in investigation, hearing or inquiry

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 828)

This subchapter shall not be construed to require an employer to compensate an employee for participation in an investigation, hearing or inquiry held by a public body in accordance with section 833. [PL 1983, c. 816, Pt. A, §20 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1983, c. 816, §A20 (AMD).

§839. Notices of employee protections and obligations

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 829)

1. Notice provided; posting. The Department of Labor shall provide each employer in the State with a notice as provided in this section. Each employer shall prominently post the notice in the employer's place of business so that the employees are informed of their protections and obligations under this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 782, §8 (NEW).]

2. Contents of notice. The notice provided by the department shall include:

A. A summary of this subchapter written in concise and plain language; [PL 1987, c. 782, §8 (NEW).]

B. A telephone number at the department that employees may call if they have questions or wish to report a violation, condition or practice; and [PL 1987, c. 782, §8 (NEW).]

C. A space where the employer shall write in the name of the individual or department to which employees may report violations, unsafe conditions or practices as required by section 833. [PL 1987, c. 782, §8 (NEW).]

[PL 1987, c. 782, §8 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1987, c. 782, §8 (RPR).

§840. Common-law rights

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 26, SECTION 830)

Nothing in this section may be construed to derogate any common-law rights of an employee. [PL 1987, c. 782, §9 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 452 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 583, §15 (RAL). PL 1987, c. 782, §9 (RPR).

SUBCHAPTER 6

EMPLOYEE TRUSTS

§841. Not subject to rule against perpetuities

A trust of real or personal property, or real and personal property combined, created by an employer as part of a stock bonus, pension, disability, death benefit or profit-sharing plan for the benefit of some or all of the employer's employees, to which contributions are made by the employer or employees, or both, for the purpose of distributing to the employees the earnings or the principal, or both earnings and principal, of the fund held in trust, may continue in perpetuity or for such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purpose for which it is created and may not be invalid as violating any rule of law against perpetuities or suspension of the power of alienation of the title to property. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §31 (COR).]

A rule of law against perpetuities or suspension of the power of alienation of the title to property may not operate to invalidate any trust created or attempted to be created, prior to August 20, 1951, by an employer as a part of a stock bonus, pension, disability, death benefit or profit-sharing plan for the benefit of some or all of the employer's employees to which contributions are made by the employer or employees, or both, for the purpose of distributing to the employees earnings or principal, or both earnings and principal, of the fund held in trust, unless the trust is terminated by a court of competent jurisdiction in a civil action instituted within 3 years after August 20, 1951. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §31 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §31 (COR).

SUBCHAPTER 6-A

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE REQUIREMENTS

§843. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

1. Employee. "Employee" means any person who may be permitted, required or directed by an employer in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit to engage in any employment but does not include an independent contractor. [PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

2. Employee benefits. "Employee benefits" means all benefits, other than salary and wages, provided or made available to employees by an employer and includes group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance and pensions, regardless of whether benefits are provided by a policy or practice of an employer. [PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

3. Employer. "Employer" means:

A. Any person, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association or other business entity that employs 15 or more employees at one location in this State; [PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. D, §2 (AMD).]

B. The State, including the executive, legislative and judicial branches, and any state department or agency that employs any employees; [PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

C. Any city, town or municipal agency that employs 25 or more employees; and [PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

D. Any agent of an employer, the State or a political subdivision of the State. [PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

[PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. D, §2 (AMD).]

4. Family medical leave. "Family medical leave" means leave requested by an employee for:

A. Serious health condition of the employee; [PL 1997, c. 546, §1 (AMD).]

B. The birth of the employee's child or the employee's domestic partner's child; [PL 2007, c. 261, §1 (AMD).]

C. The placement of a child 16 years of age or less with the employee or with the employee's domestic partner in connection with the adoption of the child by the employee or the employee's domestic partner; [PL 2007, c. 261, §1 (AMD).]

D. A child, domestic partner's child, grandchild, domestic partner's grandchild, parent, domestic partner, sibling or spouse with a serious health condition; [PL 2021, c. 189, §1 (AMD).]

E. The donation of an organ of that employee for a human organ transplant; or [PL 2007, c. 388, §4 (AMD).]

F. The death or serious health condition of the employee's spouse, domestic partner, parent, sibling or child if the spouse, domestic partner, parent, sibling or child as a member of the state military forces, as defined in Title 37-B, section 102, or the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, dies or incurs a serious health condition while on active duty. [PL 2007, c. 519, §2 (AMD).]

[PL 2021, c. 189, §1 (AMD).]

4-A. Health care provider. "Health care provider" means:

A. A doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is licensed to practice medicine or surgery in this State; or [PL 1997, c. 546, §2 (NEW).]

B. Any other person determined by the Secretary of Labor to be capable of providing health care services. [PL 1997, c. 546, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 546, §2 (NEW).]

4-B. Reduced leave schedule. "Reduced leave schedule" means a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee.

[PL 2007, c. 233, §1 (NEW).]

5. Serious illness.

[PL 1997, c. 546, §3 (RP).]

6. Serious health condition. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves:

A. Inpatient care in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility; or [PL 1997, c. 546, §2 (NEW).]

B. Continuing treatment by a health care provider. [PL 1997, c. 546, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 1997, c. 546, §2 (NEW).]

7. Domestic partner.

[PL 2021, c. 567, §41 (RP).]

8. Sibling. "Sibling" means a sibling of an employee who is jointly responsible with the employee for each other's common welfare as evidenced by joint living arrangements and joint financial arrangements.

[PL 2007, c. 519, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 546, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 127, §D2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 684, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 233, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 261, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 388, §§3-5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 519, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 189, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 567, §41 (AMD).

§844. Family medical leave requirement

1. Family medical leave entitlement. Except as provided in subsection 4, every employee who has been employed by the same employer for 12 consecutive months is entitled to up to 10 work weeks of family medical leave in any 2 years unless employed at a permanent work site with fewer than 15 employees. The following conditions apply to family medical leave granted under this subchapter:

A. The employee must give at least 30 days' notice of the intended date upon which family medical leave will commence and terminate, unless prevented by medical emergency from giving that notice; [PL 1987, c. 861, §§19, 20 (AMD).]

B. The employer may require certification from a physician to verify the amount of leave requested by the employee, except that an employee who in good faith relies on treatment by prayer or spiritual means, in accordance with the tenets and practice of a recognized church or religious denomination, may submit certification from an accredited practitioner of those healing methods; and [PL 1991, c. 277, §1 (AMD).]

C. The employer and employee may negotiate for more or less leave, but both parties must agree.
[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 690, §1 (AMD).]

2. Unpaid leave. Family medical leave granted under this subchapter may consist of unpaid leave. If an employer provides paid family medical leave for fewer than 10 weeks, the additional weeks of leave added to attain the total of 10 weeks required may be unpaid.

[PL 1991, c. 277, §1 (AMD).]

3. Leave taken intermittently or on reduced leave schedule. Intermittent or reduced leave schedule family medical leave may be taken subject to the following limitations:

A. Leave for a reason described in section 843, subsection 4, paragraph B or C may not be taken by an employee intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule unless the employee and the employer agree otherwise. Subject to subsection 1, paragraphs A and B, leave for a reason described in section 843, subsection 4, paragraph A, D or E may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. The taking of leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule pursuant to this paragraph may not result in a reduction in the total amount of leave to which the employee is entitled under subsection 1 beyond the amount of leave actually taken. [PL 2007, c. 233, §3 (NEW).]

B. If an employee requests intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule, for a reason described in section 843, subsection 4, paragraph A, D or E that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employer may require such employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the employer for which the employee is qualified and that:

(1) Has equivalent pay and benefits; and

(2) Better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular employment position of the employee. [PL 2007, c. 233, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 233, §3 (NEW).]

4. School employees. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an employee of a school administrative unit who has worked at least 900 hours in the previous 12-month period is eligible for family medical leave under the same terms and conditions as leave provided to eligible employees under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

[PL 2021, c. 690, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 861, §§19,20 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 277, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 515, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 233, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 690, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§845. Employee benefits protection

1. Restoration. Any employee who exercises the right to family medical leave under this subchapter, upon expiration of the leave, is entitled to be restored by the employer to the position held by the employee when the leave commenced or to a position with equivalent seniority status, employee benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. This subsection does not apply if the employer proves that the employee was not restored as provided in this subsection because of conditions unrelated to the employee's exercise of rights under this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

2. Maintenance of employee benefits. During any family medical leave taken under this subchapter, the employer shall make it possible for employees to continue their employee benefits at the employee's expense. The employer and employee may negotiate for the employer to maintain benefits at the employer's expense for the duration of the leave.

[PL 1991, c. 277, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 277, §2 (AMD).

§846. Effect on existing employee benefits

1. Benefit accrual. The taking of family medical leave under this subchapter shall not result in the loss of any employee benefit accrued before the date on which the leave commenced.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

2. Effect on collective bargaining. Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to affect an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan that provides greater family medical leave rights to employees than the rights provided under this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

3. Rights not diminished. The family medical leave rights mandated by this subchapter may not be diminished by any collective bargaining agreement or by any employee benefit plan.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

4. Contract rights. Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to affect or diminish the contract rights or seniority status of any other employee of any employer covered by this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).

§847. Prohibited acts

1. Unlawful interference or denial of rights. The employer may not interfere with, restrain or deny the exercise of or the attempt to exercise any right provided by this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

2. Unlawful discrimination against exercise of rights. The employer may not discharge, fine, suspend, expel, discipline or in any other manner discriminate against any employee for exercising any right provided by this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

3. Unlawful discrimination against opposition. The employer may not discharge, fine, suspend, expel, discipline or in any other manner discriminate against any employee for opposing any practice made unlawful by this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW).

§848. Judicial enforcement

1. Injunction and damages. A civil action may be brought in the appropriate court by an employee against any employer to enforce this subchapter. The court may enjoin any act or practice that violates or may violate this subchapter and may order any other equitable relief that is necessary and appropriate to redress the violation or to enforce this subchapter. The court also may:

A. Award damages equal to the wages, salary, employment benefits or other compensation denied or lost to the employee by reason of the violation; or [PL 2005, c. 228, §1 (NEW).]

B. Order the employer to pay liquidated damages of \$100 to the employee for each day that the violation continued. [PL 2005, c. 228, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 228, §1 (NEW).]

2. Additional damages. The court also may order the employer to pay an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to the amount awarded under subsection 1 if the employee proves to the satisfaction of the court that the employer's violation was willful.

[PL 2005, c. 228, §1 (NEW).]

3. Attorney's fees. In any action brought pursuant to this section, in addition to any judgment awarded to the employee, the court shall award reasonable attorney's fees and other costs of the action to be paid by the employer.

[PL 2005, c. 228, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 228, §1 (RPR).

§849. Review; sunset

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 661 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 738, §2 (RP).

§849-A. Rules

The Department of Labor shall adopt rules to provide guidance in the application of this subchapter to domestic partners. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The department shall make the rules available on a publicly accessible website maintained by the department. [PL 2021, c. 567, §42 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 567, §42 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 6-B

EMPLOYMENT LEAVE FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

§850. Employment leave for victims of violence

1. Required leave. An employer must grant reasonable and necessary leave from work, with or without pay, for an employee to:

- A. Prepare for and attend court proceedings; [PL 1999, c. 435, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Receive medical treatment or attend to medical treatment for a victim who is the employee's child, parent or spouse; or [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §32 (COR).]
- C. Obtain necessary services to remedy a crisis caused by domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. [PL 1999, c. 435, §1 (NEW).]

The leave must be needed because the employee or the employee's child, parent or spouse is a victim of violence, assault, sexual assaults under Title 17-A, chapter 11, stalking or any act that would support an order for protection under Title 19-A, chapter 103. An employer may not sanction an employee or deprive an employee of pay or benefits for exercising a right granted by this section.

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §32 (COR).]

1-A. Definitions. For purposes of this subchapter, "child" has the same meaning as "daughter" or "son" under federal regulations adopted pursuant to 29 United States Code, Section 2654, as in effect on January 1, 2002. For purposes of this subchapter, "parent" and "spouse" have the same meanings as under federal regulations adopted pursuant to 29 United States Code, Section 2654, as in effect on January 1, 2002. An employer may require an employee to provide reasonable documentation of the family relationship, which may include a statement from the employee, a birth certificate, a court document or similar documents.

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §33 (COR).]

2. Exceptions. Subsection 1 is not violated if:

- A. The employer would sustain undue hardship from the employee's absence; [PL 2001, c. 685, §3 (AMD).]

B. The request for leave is not communicated to the employer within a reasonable time under the circumstances; or [PL 1999, c. 435, §1 (NEW).]

C. The requested leave is impractical, unreasonable or unnecessary based on the facts then made known to the employer. [PL 1999, c. 435, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 685, §3 (AMD).]

3. Penalties. If notice of a violation of this section is given to the employer and the Department of Labor within 6 months of the occurrence, the Department of Labor may assess penalties as follows:

A. For denial of leave in violation of this section, a fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation of this section may be assessed. A fine assessed under this paragraph must be paid to the Treasurer of State. Additionally, the employer shall pay liquidated damages to the affected individual in an amount equal to 3 times the amount of total assessed fines; and [PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B. For termination in connection with an individual exercising a right granted by this section, the affected individual may elect to receive:

(1) Liquidated damages pursuant to paragraph A; or

(2) Reemployment with the employer with back wages. [PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

4. Application. This subchapter applies to all public and private employers, including the State and its political subdivisions.

[PL 1999, c. 659, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 435, §1 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 659, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 685, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 343, Pt. A, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. B, §59 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. B, §65 (AFF). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §§32, 33 (COR).

SUBCHAPTER 6-C

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

§850-A. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

1. Administrator. "Administrator" means the department administering the program or an authorized 3rd party conducting any functions necessary to implement and operate the program.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Authority. "Authority" means the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Authority, under section 850-O.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Average weekly wage. "Average weekly wage," as used to establish the maximum weekly benefit amount for purposes of this subchapter, means 1/52 of aggregate total wages paid in the State for a covered individual, as reported on employer contribution reports for the calendar year, divided by the arithmetic mean of midmonth weekly covered employment reported on employer contribution reports for the calendar year in the form and manner determined by the department.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Base period. "Base period" means the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of an individual's benefit year.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §1 (AMD).]

5. Benefit year. "Benefit year" means the 12-month period beginning on the first day of the calendar week immediately preceding the first date of approved family or medical leave.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §2 (AMD).]

6. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Labor.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

7. Contributions. "Contributions" means the payments remitted by an employer or self-employed individual to the fund, as required by this subchapter.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

8. Controller. "Controller" means the State Controller.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

9. Covered individual. "Covered individual" means a person who:

A. Earned at least 6 times the state average weekly wage in wages subject to premiums under this subchapter during the individual's base period or elects coverage and meets the requirements of section 850-G; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Meets the administrative requirements outlined in this subchapter and any rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter and files an application for family leave benefits or medical leave benefits. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

10. Covered service member. "Covered service member" means:

A. A member of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, who is:

(1) Undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy or otherwise receiving outpatient treatment; or

(2) Otherwise on the United States Armed Forces' temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty in the United States Armed Forces or a serious injury or illness that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the United States Armed Forces; or [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. A former member of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy for a serious injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty in the United States Armed Forces or a serious injury or illness that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and manifested before or after the member was discharged or released from service. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

11. Department. "Department" means the Department of Labor.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

12. Domestic partner. "Domestic partner" has the same meaning as in Title 1, section 72, subsection 2-C.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

13. Employee. "Employee" means a person who may be permitted, required or directed by an employer in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit to engage in any employment in the State but does not include an independent contractor.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

14. Employer. "Employer" means:

A. Any person, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association or other business entity that employs employees at a location in this State; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. The State, including the executive, legislative and judicial branches, and a state department or agency; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. A county, city, town or municipal agency; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. An agent of an employer, the State or a political subdivision of the State; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

E. A public employer, as defined in section 962, subsection 7; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

F. A tribal government that has elected coverage pursuant to section 850-G. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

"Employer" does not include the Federal Government.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

15. Employment. "Employment" means a service performed for wages.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

16. Employment benefits. "Employment benefits" means all benefits provided or made available to employees by an employer, including, but not limited to, group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual or vacation leave, educational benefits and pensions.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

17. Family leave. "Family leave" means leave taken pursuant to section 850-B, subsection 2.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

18. Family leave benefits. "Family leave benefits" means wage replacement paid pursuant to sections 850-B and 850-C to a covered individual while the covered individual is on family leave.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

19. Family member. "Family member" means, with respect to a covered individual or spouse or domestic partner of a covered individual:

A. Regardless of age, a child, including a child whose parentage has been determined under the Maine Parentage Act or any other biological child, adopted child, foster child or stepchild, or a child to whom the covered individual or spouse or domestic partner of the covered individual stands in loco parentis or a child the covered individual or spouse or domestic partner of the covered individual has under legal guardianship or any individual to whom the covered individual or spouse or domestic partner of the covered individual stood in any of these relationships when the individual was a minor child; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. A parent, including a legal parent, biological parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, stepparent, de facto parent or legal guardian or a person who stood in loco parentis when the covered individual or spouse or domestic partner of the covered individual was a minor child; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. A grandparent, including a legal grandparent, biological grandparent, adoptive grandparent, foster grandparent, stepgrandparent or de facto grandparent; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. A grandchild, including a legal grandchild, biological grandchild, adoptive grandchild, foster grandchild, stepgrandchild or de facto grandchild; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

E. A sibling, including a legal sibling, biological sibling, adoptive sibling, foster sibling, stepsibling or de facto sibling; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

F. A spouse or domestic partner of a covered individual; or [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

G. As designated by the covered individual in accordance with rule, an individual with whom the covered individual has a significant personal bond that is or is like a family relationship, regardless of biological or legal relationship. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

20. Fund. "Fund" means the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund established under section 850-E.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

21. Health care provider. "Health care provider" means an individual licensed to practice medicine, surgery, dentistry, chiropractic, podiatry, midwifery or osteopathy or any other individual determined by the administrator to be capable of providing health care services.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

22. Medical leave. "Medical leave" means leave taken pursuant to section 850-B, subsection 3. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

23. Medical leave benefits. "Medical leave benefits" means wage replacement paid pursuant to sections 850-B and 850-C to a covered individual while the covered individual is on medical leave.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

24. Program. "Program" means the paid family and medical leave benefits program established in section 850-B.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

25. Qualifying exigency. "Qualifying exigency" means an exigency determined pursuant to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 United States Code, Section 2612(a)(1)(E).

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

26. Safe leave. "Safe leave" means any leave taken because the covered individual or the covered individual's family member is a victim of violence, assault, sexual assault under Title 17-A, chapter 11, stalking or any act that would support an order for protection under Title 19-A, chapter 103. Safe leave under this subchapter applies if the covered individual is using the leave to protect the covered individual or the covered individual's family member by:

A. Seeking an order for protection under Title 19-A, chapter 103; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Obtaining medical care or mental health counseling for the covered individual or for the covered individual's family member to address physical or psychological injuries resulting from the act of violence, assault, sexual assault or stalking or act that would support an order for protection under Title 19-A, chapter 103; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. Making the covered individual's or the covered individual's family member's home secure from the perpetrator of the act of violence, assault, sexual assault or stalking or act that would support

an order for protection under Title 19-A, chapter 103 or seeking new housing to escape the perpetrator; or [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. Seeking legal assistance to address issues arising from the act of violence, assault, sexual assault or stalking or act that would support an order for protection under Title 19-A, chapter 103 or attending and preparing for court-related proceedings arising from the act or crime. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

27. Self-employed individual. "Self-employed individual" means an independent contractor as described in section 1043, subsection 11, paragraph E, a sole proprietor, a member of a limited liability company or limited liability partnership or an individual whose net profit or loss from a business must be reported to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services and who resides in the State.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

28. Serious health condition. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, pregnancy, recovery from childbirth or physical, mental or psychological condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care center or continuing treatment by a health care provider.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

29. Spouse. "Spouse" has the same meaning as in Title 18-C, section 1-201, subsection 54.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

30. State average weekly wage. "State average weekly wage" means the average weekly wage as published by the department for the State as a whole for the 12 most recently reported months.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

31. Wages. "Wages" includes, but is not limited to, salary, wages, tips, commissions and other compensation as determined by rule. For a self-employed individual who elects coverage under section 850-G, "wages" includes, but is not limited to, self-employment income as defined by 26 United States Code, Section 1402(b).

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

32. Weekly benefit amount. "Weekly benefit amount" means the amount of wage replacement paid to a covered individual on a weekly basis while the covered individual is on family leave or medical leave as provided in section 850-C.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§850-B. Paid family and medical leave benefits program established

The paid family and medical leave benefits program is established effective January 1, 2026. The program is administered by the department. In accordance with subsection 1, the department may, through contract after a competitive bidding process subject to the requirements of Title 5, section 1816-B, authorize a 3rd party to conduct claims administration. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

1. Competitive bidding process. Any competitive bidding process used by the department pursuant to this section is governed by this subsection.

A. [PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §3 (RP).]

B. Any 3rd party that submits a proposal must have a meaningful physical presence in the State; have no adjudicated record of substantial or repeated willful noncompliance with any relevant

federal, state or local law, statute or regulation, including payment of taxes or other payments owed to a public entity; attest to compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws, regulations and statutes, including health and safety, labor and employment and licensing laws that affect the employees, worksite or performance of the contract; complete a signed pledge of compliance provided by the State to comply with all applicable laws, statutes and regulations; and attest that any projected cost savings may not derive from the 3rd party's failure to provide adequate wages. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. The requirements of Title 5, section 1825-B, subsection 7 do not apply. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §3 (AMD).]

2. Family leave eligibility. A covered individual is eligible for family leave for any of the following reasons:

A. To bond with the covered individual's child during the first 12 months after the child's birth or the first 12 months after the placement of the child for adoption or foster care with the covered individual; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. To care for a family member with a serious health condition; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. To attend to a qualifying exigency; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. To care for a family member of the covered individual who is a covered service member; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

E. To take safe leave; or [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

F. Any other reason set forth in section 843, subsection 4. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Medical leave eligibility. A covered individual with a serious health condition that makes the covered individual unable to work is eligible for medical leave.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Maximum leave requirements. The following requirements apply.

A. A covered individual is not eligible for more than 12 weeks of family leave in a benefit year. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. A covered individual is not eligible for medical leave for more than 12 weeks in a benefit year. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. A covered individual may not take more than 12 weeks, in the aggregate, of family leave and medical leave under this subchapter in the same benefit year. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

This subsection does not prevent a covered individual from taking medical leave that is immediately followed by family leave when the medical leave is taken during pregnancy or recovery from childbirth and is supported by documentation from a health care provider.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

5. Intermittent leave requirements. Leave permitted by this section may be taken by an employee intermittently in increments equaling not less than one work day, unless a lesser increment is agreed to by the employee and the employer, except that the employee and employer may not agree to leave under this section to be taken in increments of less than one hour.

[PL 2025, c. 277, §1 (AMD).]

6. Weekly benefit. While on family leave or medical leave pursuant to this subchapter, a covered individual receives a weekly benefit amount as provided in section 850-C.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

7. Notice to employer. Absent an emergency, illness or other sudden necessity for taking leave, an employee shall give reasonable notice to the employee's supervisor of the employee's intent to use leave under this subchapter. Use of such leave must be scheduled to prevent undue hardship on the employer as reasonably determined by the employer. If an employer fails to provide notice as required under section 850-I, the employee's obligation to provide notice under this subsection is waived.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

8. Right to benefits; accrual. The taking of family leave or medical leave may not affect an employee's right to accrue vacation time, sick time, bonuses, advancement, seniority, length of service credit or other employment benefits, plans or programs. During the duration of an employee's family leave or medical leave, the employer shall continue to provide for and contribute to the employee's employment-related health insurance benefits, if any, at the level and under the conditions coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued working continuously for the duration of leave.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

9. Treatment of self-employed individuals. Subsection 8 does not apply to a self-employed individual taking family leave or medical leave under this subchapter or to a person who is no longer an employee who was an employee when that person began taking family leave or medical leave under this subchapter.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

10. Collective bargaining; employer policy; greater or additional rights. This subchapter does not:

A. Obviate an employer's obligations to comply with any employer policy, law or collective bargaining agreement that provides for rights to leave greater than or additional to those provided by this subchapter; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. In any way curtail the rights, privileges or remedies of any employee under any collective bargaining agreement or employment contract; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. Allow an employer to compel an employee to exhaust rights to any sick, vacation or personal time prior to or while taking leave under this subchapter; or [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. Require a public employer, as defined in section 962, subsection 7, or employee of a public employer that is a party to a collective bargaining agreement in existence on the effective date of this subchapter to apply any of the rights and responsibilities under this subchapter until the existing collective bargaining agreement expires. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

11. Concurrent with leave under state and federal law. Leave taken under this subchapter runs concurrently with leave taken under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 United States Code, Section 2611, et seq., and under subchapter 6-A. Employees may take leave under this subchapter while ineligible for leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 in the same benefit year.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

12. Employer policy may not waive employee rights. An employer policy adopted or retained on or after the effective date of this subchapter may not diminish an employee's right to benefits under this subchapter. Any agreement by an employee to waive the employee's rights under this subchapter is against public policy and is void and unenforceable.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

13. Bureau of Paid Family and Medical Leave; responsibilities of commissioner. Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the Commissioner of Labor shall administer this subchapter through the Bureau of Paid Family and Medical Leave. The commissioner may employ persons, make expenditures, require reports, make investigations, impose assessments, coordinate with other departments and bureaus and take other actions the commissioner determines necessary or suitable to administer this subchapter. The commissioner shall determine methods of operational procedures in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.

[PL 2025, c. 277, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §§3, 4 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 277, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§850-C. Payment of benefits

1. Waiting period for medical leave. Medical leave benefits are not payable during the first 7 calendar days of the leave, except that an employee may use accrued sick or vacation pay or other paid leave provided under a collective bargaining agreement or employer policy during the first 7 calendar days of the leave.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Determination of weekly benefit amount. The weekly benefit amount paid to employees and self-employed individuals on family leave or medical leave is calculated as follows:

A. The portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is equal to or less than 50% of the state average weekly wage must be replaced at a rate of 90%; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. The portion of the covered individual's average weekly wage that is more than 50% of the state average weekly wage must be replaced at a rate of 66% up to the maximum weekly benefit. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Maximum benefit amount adjustment. The maximum weekly benefit amount calculated under subsection 2 is the state average weekly wage. By January 1st of the year in which claims begin being processed and annually thereafter, the department shall take into consideration the recommendation of the authority to adjust the maximum weekly benefit amount as necessary, and the adjusted maximum weekly benefit amount takes effect on January 1st of the year following the adjustment. The authority shall recommend adjusting the maximum benefit amount in order to maintain the solvency of the fund at a level of at least the annualized amount described in section 850-E, subsection 3.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Prorated benefit. If a covered individual takes family leave or medical leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule, the weekly benefit amount must be prorated as determined by the department.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

5. Reduction of benefit. The weekly benefit amount must be reduced by the amount of wages or wage replacement that a covered individual receives for that period under any of the following while on family leave or medical leave:

A. A government program or law, including, but not limited to, unemployment insurance under this Title and workers' compensation under Title 39-A other than for compensation received under Title 39-A, section 213 for an injury that occurred prior to the family leave or medical leave claim,

or under other state or federal temporary or permanent disability benefits law; or [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. A permanent disability policy or program of an employer. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-D. Applications and claims for benefits

1. Procedures and forms. The administrator shall establish reasonable procedures and forms for filing claims for family leave benefits and medical leave benefits under this subchapter and shall specify what supporting documentation is necessary to support a claim for benefits, including any documentation required from a health care provider for proof of a serious health condition and any documentation required by the administrator with regard to a claim for safe leave or qualifying exigency leave.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Filing of application. An individual may file an application for family leave benefits or medical leave benefits no more than 60 days before the anticipated start date of family leave and medical leave and no more than 90 days after the start date of family leave and medical leave. The administrator shall waive the 90-day filing deadline for good cause. The administrator shall institute forms and procedures that are not unduly burdensome to an individual claiming benefits.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Notification of employer. The administrator shall notify the relevant employer within 5 business days of a claim being filed pursuant to this subchapter.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Confidentiality. Any medical or health information required under this section must be treated as confidential and may not be disclosed except with permission from the covered individual who provided it unless disclosure is otherwise required by law. Nothing in this section may be construed to compel a health care provider to provide any information for certification that would be in violation of Section 1177 of the federal Social Security Act, 42 United States Code, Section 1320d-6.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

5. Ineligibility. A covered individual is not eligible to receive family leave benefits or medical leave benefits if the administrator finds, through a process established by rule, that the covered individual, for the purpose of obtaining these benefits, has willfully made a false statement or misrepresentation regarding a material fact or has willfully withheld a material fact concerning the facts required to be certified pursuant to this section. The department shall establish a process by rule for the determination of eligibility under this section, including a grievance process for a covered individual determined to be ineligible.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-E. Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund

1. Fund established. The Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund is established to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. The fund is administered by the Treasurer of State. Any sums received under this section are not considered revenue of the State, but must be held in trust for the exclusive benefit of covered individuals eligible for family leave benefits and medical leave benefits under this subchapter and for the administration of this subchapter by the department. Funds may not

be expended, released, appropriated or otherwise disposed of for any other purpose and must be expended by the department as required by this subchapter to pay family leave benefits and medical leave benefits to covered individuals eligible to receive benefits and to pay the administrative costs of the administrator.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Deposits in fund. The fund consists of:

A. Contributions collected pursuant to section 850-F together with any interest earned thereon; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Property or securities acquired through the use of money belonging to the fund together with any earnings of such property or securities; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. Fines and penalties collected under this subchapter; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. Any other money received from any source, including grants, gifts, bequests or money specifically designated to be credited to the fund. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Annualized amount. The fund must maintain an annualized amount as determined by an annual study by a qualified actuary that examines the program's recent and expected future claims experience, administrative expenses and target fund requirements.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Administrative costs. The costs of administering the program by the administrator may not exceed 10% of the amount deposited under subsection 2 for each fiscal year following the initial year family leave benefits and medical leave benefits are paid. Money may not be commingled with other state funds and must be maintained in a separate account.

[PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §5 (AMD).]

5. Payment of benefits. The administrator shall expend money from the fund to provide weekly family leave benefits and medical leave benefits under section 850-C. Family leave benefits and medical leave benefits must be paid from the fund to covered individuals eligible for benefits. An employer's bankruptcy or noncompliance with this subchapter does not interfere with an employee's ability to collect family leave benefits and medical leave benefits under this subchapter. Family leave benefits and medical leave benefits paid from the fund to such an employee may be recovered through bankruptcy proceedings or from the noncomplying employer. The administrator shall institute administrative and legal action to recover family leave benefits and medical leave benefits paid through the fund.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

6. Report. Beginning October 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the administrator shall publish a report providing the following information concerning the program for the previous fiscal year:

A. The total claims made, the total eligible claims and the percentage of total eligible claims out of total claims made; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. The percentage of eligible claims attributable to medical leave; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. The percentage of eligible claims attributable to family leave for the serious health condition of a family member; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. The percentage of eligible claims attributable to family leave other than for the birth, adoption or fostering of a child; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

- E. The percentage of eligible claims attributable to family leave for the birth, adoption or fostering of a child; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- F. The percentage of eligible claims attributable to family leave for a qualifying exigency; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- G. The percentage of eligible claims attributable to family leave for a covered service member; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- H. The claimant demographics by age, gender identification, race, ethnicity, average weekly wage, occupation and the type of leave taken; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- I. The percentage of claims denied and the reasons for the denials; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- J. The average weekly benefit amount paid for all claims and by the type of leave taken; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- K. The category of family member for whom family medical leave was taken to care for the family member's serious medical condition; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- L. The time for initial claims processing and determination; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- M. The average length of time between an application and receipt of benefits; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- N. The average leave duration for each purpose of leave; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- O. Any changes in gross benefits paid compared to the previous fiscal year. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

The administrator shall submit the annual report required by this subsection to the department, the authority and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. ZZZ, §5 (AMD).

§850-F. Premiums

1. Authorized. Payroll premiums must be paid in order to finance the payment of family leave benefits and medical leave benefits under this subchapter and administration of the program. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Employer to remit employer contribution reports and premiums. Beginning January 1, 2025, for each employee, an employer shall remit employer contribution reports and premiums in the form and manner determined by the administrator. Employer contribution reports and premiums must be remitted quarterly. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Premium amount. The following provisions govern the premium amount.

A. Beginning January 1, 2025, the premium amount may not be more than a combined rate of 1.0% of wages. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Annually, for the 2028 calendar year and each calendar year thereafter, not later than October 1st, the department shall set the premium for the coming calendar year based on a percentage of employee wages and at the rate necessary to obtain a total amount of premium contributions in order to maintain the solvency of the fund at a level of at least the annualized amount described in

section 850-E, subsection 3, plus an amount equal to 100% of the cost of administration of the payment of those benefits during the previous fiscal year, less the amount of net assets remaining in the fund as of June 30th of the current calendar year. If, for the 2028 calendar year or any calendar year thereafter, the premium rate adjustment pursuant to this subsection is an increase and results in the difference between the rate of the upcoming calendar year and the current calendar year equaling more than 0.1% of wages paid, the department shall submit a report regarding fund solvency and factors contributing to rate setting to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Self-employed individuals. The following provisions govern self-employed individuals.

A. A self-employed individual who elects coverage under section 850-G shall pay up to 50% of the premium required by subsection 3 on that individual's income from self-employment. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. A self-employed individual who elects coverage under section 850-G shall remit the premium amount required by this subsection directly to the administrator, in the form and manner required by the commissioner by rule. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

5. Employers. The following provisions govern employers.

A. An employer with 15 or more employees may deduct up to 50% of the premium required for an employee by subsection 3 from that employee's wages and shall remit 100% of the combined premium contribution required by subsection 3 to the fund. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. An employer with fewer than 15 employees may deduct up to 50% of the premium required for an employee by subsection 3 from that employee's wages and shall remit 50% of the premium required by subsection 3 to the fund. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

6. Limit on wages to determine premiums. Premiums are required up to the contribution and benefit base limit established annually by the federal Social Security Administration for purposes of the federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program limits pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 430.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

7. Use. The premiums collected under this subchapter must be used exclusively for the payment of family leave benefits and medical leave benefits and the costs of administration of the program.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

8. Approved private plan. An employer with an approved private plan under section 850-H is not required to remit premiums under this section to the fund.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

9. Failure or refusal to make premium contributions. An employer that fails or refuses to make premium contributions as required in this section must be assessed 1.0% of its total annual payroll for each year it so failed to comply in addition to any amounts previously owed, or fraction thereof, in addition to the total amount of family leave benefits and medical leave benefits paid to covered individuals for whom it failed to make premium contributions. The rate of assessment imposed by this subsection must be adjusted annually consistent with subsection 3, paragraph B.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

10. Self-employed individual who elects coverage and fails or refuses to make premium contributions. A self-employed individual who elects coverage under section 850-G and who fails or

refuses to make premium contributions for at least 2 quarters as required in this section may be disqualified from family leave benefits and medical leave benefits. The self-employed individual's disqualification terminates upon:

A. The self-employed individual's remittance of all previously owed premium contributions as required in this section; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Following remittance as required by paragraph A, the self-employed individual's remittance of premium contributions as required in this section for an additional number of quarters equivalent to the number of quarters for which the self-employed individual failed or refused to make premium contributions. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

11. Enforcement to collect delinquent premium contributions, penalties and assessments. If an employer fails to make a payment in whole or in part of premium contributions, including penalties or assessments imposed, and the employer has exhausted all rights to an appeal, the department may enforce collection by:

A. Filing a civil action to collect unpaid premium contributions, penalties and assessments in the name of the commissioner, and the employer may be ordered to pay the costs of that action; and [PL 2025, c. 277, §3 (NEW).]

B. Collecting by levy on a 3rd party that has possession or control of property in which the employer may have an interest the amount owed to the department for delinquent premium contributions, penalties and assessments consistent with section 1233. [PL 2025, c. 277, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2025, c. 277, §3 (NEW).]

12. Liability of successor for delinquent premium contributions, penalties and assessments. An individual or organization that acquires an employer's organization, trade or business or a substantial part of the assets of that organization, trade or business is liable to the department for any premium contributions, penalties and assessments unpaid by the employer in the amount owed. The individual's or organization's liability under this subsection may not exceed the reasonable value of the organization, trade or business or assets acquired. Upon written request, the department shall provide the successor individual or organization with information about the amount owed and other information as determined necessary.

[PL 2025, c. 277, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW). PL 2025, c. 277, §§3, 4 (AMD).

§850-G. Elective coverage

1. Self-employed individual. A self-employed individual, including an independent contractor, sole proprietor or partner, may elect coverage under this subchapter for an initial period of not less than 3 years. The self-employed individual shall file a notice of election in writing with the commissioner, as required by the department. The election becomes effective on the date of filing the notice. As a condition of election, the self-employed individual must agree to supply any information concerning wages that the department considers necessary.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Withdrawal from coverage. A self-employed individual who has elected coverage may withdraw from coverage within 30 days after the end of the 3-year period of coverage, or at such other times as the commissioner may prescribe by rule, by filing written notice with the commissioner. A withdrawal may not take effect sooner than 30 days after filing the notice.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Individual no longer self-employed. An individual who has elected coverage under this section and is no longer a self-employed individual must be excused from that individual's obligations under this section, as the department prescribes by rule.
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Tribal government. A tribal government may elect to be covered under this subchapter, or to terminate coverage, in the same manner as provided in this section, subject to such procedures as the department may require by rule.
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-H. Substitution of private plans

1. Application for approval of private plan. An employer may apply to the department for approval to meet its obligations under this subchapter through a private plan. In order to be approved, a private plan must confer rights, protections and benefits substantially equivalent to those provided to employees under this subchapter, including, but not limited to:

A. Allowing family leave and medical leave to be taken for all purposes specified in section 850-B, subsections 2 and 3; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Providing family leave benefits and medical leave benefits to a covered individual for a maximum number of weeks substantially equivalent to the maximum number of weeks required in section 850-B, subsection 4 in a benefit year; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. Providing a wage replacement rate for all family leave benefits and medical leave benefits that is substantially equivalent to the amount required by section 850-C, subsection 2; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. Providing a maximum weekly benefit for all family leave benefits and medical leave benefits that is substantially equivalent to the amount specified in section 850-C, subsection 3; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

E. Allowing a covered individual to take intermittent leave as authorized by section 850-B, subsection 5; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

F. Imposing no additional conditions or restrictions on family leave benefits and medical leave benefits, or on family leave and medical leave taken in connection with those benefits, beyond those explicitly authorized by this subchapter or rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

G. Allowing any employee covered under the private plan who is eligible for family leave benefits and medical leave benefits under this subchapter to receive benefits and take family leave and medical leave under the private plan; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

H. Providing that the cost to employees covered by the private plan may not be greater than the cost charged to employees under section 850-F. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Additional requirements. In order to be approved as meeting an employer's obligations under this subchapter, a private plan must also comply with the following provisions:

A. If the private plan is in the form of self-insurance, the employer must furnish a bond to the State with a surety company authorized to transact business in the State, in the form, amount and manner required by the department; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. The plan must provide coverage for all employees of the employer throughout the employee's period of employment with that employer; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. If the plan is in the form of a 3rd party that provides for insurance, the forms of the policy must be issued by an insurer authorized to do business in the State. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Withdrawal of approval. The department shall withdraw approval for a private plan granted under subsection 1 when terms or conditions of the plan have been violated. Causes for plan termination include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Failure to pay family leave benefits or medical leave benefits; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Failure to pay family leave benefits or medical leave benefits timely and in a manner consistent with this subchapter; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. Failure to maintain an adequate surety bond under subsection 2, paragraph A; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. Misuse of private plan money; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

E. Failure to submit reports or comply with other requirements as required by the commissioner by rule; or [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

F. Failure to comply with this subchapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

4. Rights retained. An employee covered by a private plan approved under this section retains all applicable rights otherwise provided under federal and state law.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

5. Appeal. A contested determination or denial of family leave benefits or medical leave benefits by a private plan is subject to appeal before the department and a court of competent jurisdiction as provided in section 850-K.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

6. Violations. Employers offering private plans that violate this section are subject to a fine of \$100 per violation. If an employer's private plan benefit coverage is found to have lapsed during a period of a private plan substitution approved under this section, the employer may be assessed a fine equal to the amount of the premiums the employer would owe to the fund pursuant to section 850-F for the time period in which coverage was not provided plus a penalty of 1.0% of that employer's total payroll for the same period. An employer may not deduct any employee portion of the premiums to pay this fine. The department shall transfer any fines collected pursuant to this subsection to the fund. The department by rule shall establish a process for the assessment and appeal of fines under this subsection.

[PL 2025, c. 277, §5 (AMD).]

7. Cost of administration. The department shall annually determine the total amount expended by the department for costs arising out of the administration of private plans. An employer offering a private plan pursuant to this section shall reimburse the department for the costs arising out of the private plan in the amount, form and manner determined by the department by rule. The department shall transfer payments received pursuant to this subsection to the fund.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

8. Rules. The department shall adopt rules in accordance with section 850-Q regarding the determination of what constitutes a private plan that may be approved under this section.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW). PL 2025, c. 277, §5 (AMD).

§850-I. Notice

1. Posted notice. An employer shall post in a conspicuous place on each of its premises a workplace notice provided or approved by the department providing notice of benefits available under this subchapter. The department shall issue the workplace notice in English, Spanish, French, Somali and Portuguese and any other language that is the primary language of at least 2,000 residents of the State. The employer shall post the workplace notice in English and each language other than English that is the primary language of 3 or more employees of that workplace, if such notice is available from the department.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Written notice. An employer shall issue to each employee not more than 30 days from the beginning date of the employee's employment the following written information provided or approved by the department in the employee's primary language:

A. An explanation of the availability of family leave benefits and medical leave benefits provided under this subchapter, including rights to reinstatement of employment and continuation of health insurance; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. The employee's contribution amount and obligations under this subchapter; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. The name and mailing address of the employer; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. The identification number assigned to the employer by the administrator; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

E. Instructions on how to file a claim for family leave benefits or medical leave benefits; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

F. The mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number of the administrator; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

G. Any other information deemed necessary by the administrator. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Failure to comply. An employer that fails to comply with this section commits a civil violation for which must be assessed, for a first violation, a civil penalty of \$50 per employee and \$150 per employee for each subsequent violation. The employer has the burden of demonstrating compliance with this section.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-J. Employer requirements; return to work from family or medical leave

1. Restoration to position upon return to work. Except for an employee who has not been employed for at least 120 days, an employee who exercises the right to family leave or medical leave under this subchapter is entitled, upon return from that leave, to be restored by the employer to the position held by the employee when the leave commenced or to be restored to an equivalent position with equivalent employment benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Retaliation prohibited. An employer may not discharge, fire, suspend, expel or discipline, through the application of attendance policies or otherwise, or threaten or in any manner discriminate against an employee for the exercise of any right to which the employee is entitled under this subchapter or with the purpose of interfering with the exercise of any right to which the employee is entitled under this subchapter.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Enforcement; violation. The department shall take enforcement action against an employer for a violation of this section.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-K. Appeals

1. System for appeals. The department shall establish a system for appeals in the case of a denial of family leave benefits or medical leave benefits. In establishing the system, the department may use any procedures or appeals mechanisms established under chapter 13.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Judicial review. Judicial review of any decision with respect to family leave benefits or medical leave benefits must be permitted in a court of competent jurisdiction after a party aggrieved by the decision has exhausted all administrative remedies established by the department.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Information related to appeals; confidentiality. The department shall implement procedures to ensure confidentiality, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable laws, of all information related to any claims filed or appeals made under this subchapter.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-L. Disqualification of covered individual

1. False statement; misrepresentation. A covered individual is disqualified from family leave benefits and medical leave benefits for one year if the individual is determined by the department to have willfully made a false statement or misrepresentation regarding a material fact, or willfully failed to report a material fact, to obtain benefits under this subchapter.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Erroneous payment. If family leave benefits or medical leave benefits are paid erroneously or as the result of willful misrepresentation or a claim for family leave benefits or medical leave benefits is rejected after benefits are paid, the department may seek repayment of benefits from the recipient. The department shall exercise discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such payments if the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-M. Tax treatment

1. Federal tax. If the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that family leave benefits or medical leave benefits under this subchapter are subject to federal income tax, the department shall

advise an individual filing a new claim for family leave benefits or medical leave benefits, at the time the individual files the claim, that:

A. The federal Internal Revenue Service has determined that benefits are subject to federal income tax; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

B. Requirements exist pertaining to estimated tax payments; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

C. The individual may elect to have federal income tax deducted and withheld from the individual's payment of benefits in the amount specified in the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

D. The individual is permitted to change a previously elected withholding status. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

2. Conformity to Internal Revenue Service procedures. The department shall follow all procedures specified by the federal Internal Revenue Service pertaining to the deducting and withholding of income tax.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

3. Rules. The department, in consultation with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services, shall adopt rules regarding federal and state tax treatment and related procedures regarding family leave benefits and medical leave benefits and the sharing of necessary information between the department and the Bureau of Revenue Services.

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-N. Data collection and technology

The administrator shall use state data collection procedures and technology to the extent possible to integrate the program with existing state policies. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-O. Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Authority

The Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Authority, established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 54-F, shall advise the administrator on the implementation and administration of the program in accordance with this subchapter. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

1. Membership; appointments. The authority consists of the following 15 members:

A. Eleven members appointed by the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters and to confirmation by the Senate:

- (1) One member with expertise in issues affecting labor and independent contractors;
- (2) One employer with more than 50 employees;
- (3) One member with expertise in issues related to paid family leave benefits and paid medical leave benefits;
- (4) One employer with 50 or fewer employees;
- (5) One member who is self-employed;
- (6) One member who is an employer in the hospitality industry;

- (7) One member with expertise in treating issues affecting maternity and postpartum care;
 - (8) One member with expertise in agriculture, a seasonal workforce or a heritage industry;
 - (9) One member with expertise in issues affecting elder care;
 - (10) One member with expertise in child care and early childhood development; and
 - (11) One member with expertise in employment law representing employee interests; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- B. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- C. The controller or the controller's designee; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- D. The Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation or the commissioner's designee; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- E. One employee of the Department of Health and Human Services with expertise in foster care and adoption designated by the commissioner. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- 2. Terms.** Members of the authority serve 3-year terms. When a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing a member from the same category as the member who vacated the authority, and that new member continues to serve for the remainder of the term.
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- 3. Chair; election of board officers.** The members of the authority shall annually elect one of its members as chair and one of its members as vice-chair. The chair is responsible for scheduling at least 4 authority meetings a year and for preparing the agenda for each meeting.
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- 4. Quorum.** A majority of the authority members constitutes a quorum.
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- 5. Staffing of authority.** The department shall provide administrative and staff support to the authority, and staff shall attend all meetings of the authority.
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- 6. Meetings.** The authority shall meet at least quarterly each year. Additional meetings may be held as necessary to conduct the business of the authority. At least once per year, the authority and the department shall convene a meeting to solicit public comment on any issues related to paid family leave benefits and paid medical leave benefits and on the experiences of employers and employees with the program.
[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
- 7. Duties.** The authority:
- A. Shall monitor the program on an ongoing basis to ensure the program's efficacy and performance, including its fiscal accountability and its financial solvency; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
 - B. Owes a fiduciary duty to the program and shall monitor and issue recommendations regarding the program's financial solvency; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
 - C. Shall propose changes to or advise the administrator on the laws, rules, administrator policies and other significant issues related to paid family leave benefits and paid medical leave benefits; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]
 - D. Shall provide policy oversight and recommendations on the administration and structure of the program; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

E. Shall review and make recommendations to the commissioner related to the relationship between the administrator and the employers and employees participating in the program and any education and outreach needs of the program; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

F. Shall solicit and consider public comment on the administration of the program; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

G. Shall consider and make recommendations on how to support employers with implementation of the program and maintain stability of the labor workforce for employers; [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

H. May review all contracts regarding the program, including its administration and financial solvency; and [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

I. May recommend suggested legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters may submit a bill to any regular or special session based on legislation suggested in accordance with this paragraph. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-P. Implementation

Contributions must begin January 1, 2025 to provide funds for the fund. The administrator shall begin processing claims on May 1, 2026, except that, by February 1, 2026, the authority shall conduct an actuarial study to ensure the solvency of the fund in order to begin processing claims on May 1st. If additional contributions are required based on the results of the actuarial study, the authority, through a majority vote, may require a one-time suspension of claims payments of no longer than 3 months. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

The administrator shall establish reasonable procedures and forms for filing claims for benefits under this subchapter and shall specify what supporting documentation is necessary to support a claim for benefits, including documentation required from a health care provider for proof of a serious health condition. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-Q. Rulemaking

The department shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter. Initial rules necessary for implementation of this subchapter must be adopted by the department by January 1, 2025. Rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

§850-R. Effect of existing employer benefits for family and medical leave

This subchapter may not be construed to prohibit an employee entitled to receive benefits for family leave or medical leave under a collective bargaining agreement or employer policy from also receiving benefits under this subchapter as long as the employee is otherwise eligible for benefits under this subchapter. [PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 7

STRIKEBREAKERS

§851. Policy

It is declared to be the policy of the State, in the exercise of its police power for the protection of the public safety and for the maintenance of peace and good order and for the promotion of the state's trade, commerce and manufacturing, to assure all persons involved in labor strikes or lockouts, freedom of speech and freedom from bodily harm and to prohibit the occasion of violence and disorder and in furtherance of these policies, to prohibit the recruitment and furnishing of professional strikebreakers to replace the employees involved in labor strikes or lockouts. [PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 394 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 513, §46 (RP).

§852. Employment of replacements prohibited

A person, partnership, union, agency, firm or corporation or officer, employee or agent thereof may not recruit, procure, supply or refer any person for employment who customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in place of any employee involved in a labor, strike or lockout in which that person, partnership, union, agency, firm or corporation is not directly involved. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §34 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 394 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 513, §46 (RP). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §34 (COR).

§853. Arrangements

A person, partnership, union, firm or corporation involved in a labor, strike or lockout may not, directly or indirectly, employ in the place of an employee involved in that strike or lockout any person who customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in the place of employees involved in a labor strike or lockout or contract or arrange with any other person, partnership, union, agency, firm or corporation to recruit, procure, supply or refer persons for employment who customarily and repeatedly offer to accept employment in place of employees involved in a labor, strike or lockout. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §35 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 394 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 513, §46 (RP). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §35 (COR).

§854. Offers

A person who customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in place of employees involved in a labor, strike or lockout may not take or offer to take the place of employment of any employee involved in a labor, strike or lockout. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §36 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 394 (NEW). PL 1965, c. 513, §46 (RP). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §36 (COR).

§855. Evidence

It is prima facie evidence that a person customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in place of employees involved in a labor, strike or lockout if the person has 2 times before offered to take the place of employment of persons involved in labor, strikes or lockouts. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §37 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §37 (COR).

§856. Penalty

Any person, partnership, union, agency, firm or corporation or any officer, employee or agent thereof, who or which shall willfully and knowingly violate any provision of this subchapter, for each violation, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$300 for any such offense, or by imprisonment for not more than 180 days, or by both. [PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 189 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 8

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE ACT

§861. Right to freedom from discrimination in employment (REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 513, §47 (NEW). PL 1971, c. 501, §3 (RP).

§862. Unlawful employment practices (REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 513, §47 (NEW). PL 1971, c. 501, §3 (RP).

§863. Procedure (REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 513, §47 (NEW). PL 1971, c. 501, §3 (RP).

§864. Penalty (REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 513, §47 (NEW). PL 1971, c. 501, §3 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 9

FOREIGN LABORERS; LOGGING

§871. Illegal employment of aliens

1. Prohibition. No employer shall knowingly employ any alien in this State who has not been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, unless the employment of the alien is authorized by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.
[PL 1977, c. 116 (NEW).]

1-A. Violation. Upon conviction of a violation of subsection 1, an employer may not employ aliens granted permission to work temporarily under 8 United States Code, Section 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) in this State for 2 years.
[PL 2009, c. 637, §1 (NEW).]

2. Penalty. Violation of subsection 1 or 1-A is a Class E crime. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under subsection 1 that the employer, before employing or referring a person for employment, made a good faith inquiry as to whether that person was a United States citizen or an alien, and if the inquiry reasonably indicated that the person was an alien, the employer made a further good faith inquiry that reasonably indicated that the alien was lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence or that the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service had authorized the alien to accept employment in the United States.

A. A good faith inquiry under this subsection must be in writing. An employment application form that requests citizenship data, or an alien registration number if the applicant is an alien, meets the requirement of a good faith inquiry in writing. [PL 2009, c. 637, §2 (AMD).]

B. A social security account number card is not considered evidence of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service's authorization for an alien to accept employment in the United States. [PL 2009, c. 637, §2 (AMD).]
[PL 2009, c. 637, §2 (AMD).]

3. Regulations. The Commissioner of Labor shall promulgate regulations specifying the procedure to be followed by each employer to ensure compliance with subsection 1. These regulations shall include provisions for reporting violations of subsection 1 to the Attorney General and the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.
[PL 1977, c. 116 (NEW); PL 1981, c. 168, §25 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 116 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 168, §25 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 637, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§872. Proof of equipment ownership for employers using foreign laborers

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Bond worker" means a person who has been described under 8 United States Code, Section 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii) and granted permission to work temporarily in the United States. [PL 2009, c. 637, §3 (NEW).]

B. "Logging equipment" means equipment used directly in the cutting and transporting of logs to the roadside, the production of wood chips in the field, the construction of logging roads and the transporting of logs or other wood products off-site or on roadways. [PL 2009, c. 637, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 637, §3 (RPR).]

2. Proof of ownership required. An employer in this State who applies for a bond worker in a logging occupation shall provide proof of the employer's ownership of any logging equipment used by that worker in the course of employment, including proof of ownership of at least one piece of logging equipment for every 2 bond workers employed by the employer in a logging occupation. The employer shall provide proof of ownership as required by this subsection on a form provided by the Commissioner of Labor. The proof required by this subsection must include, but not be limited to, a

receipt for payment for the equipment purchased in a bona fide transaction and documentation of payment of any tax assessed on the equipment pursuant to Title 36, chapter 105 for the year in which the bond worker is employed by the employer. Proof of ownership must be carried in the equipment and, upon request by the department or its designee, the operator of equipment subject to this section shall provide proof of ownership. If proof of ownership is not provided within 14 calendar days of such a request, a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$25,000 may be assessed against that employer and collected by the Commissioner of Labor. Notwithstanding section 3, information regarding proof of ownership is not confidential and may be disclosed to the public. If the equipment is leased by the employer, the employer shall provide the name, address and telephone number of the leasing company and its affiliates and subsidiaries; the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the leasing company's owner or owners, its agent and members of its board of directors; and a copy of the lease document. A lease is sufficient to meet the ownership requirement of this section only if it is a bona fide lease and:

A. The lease consists of an arm's length transaction between unrelated entities or is a transfer of equipment between affiliated companies; [PL 2009, c. 637, §4 (NEW).]

B. The lease document contains a specific duration and lease amount; [PL 2009, c. 637, §4 (NEW).]

C. The lessor is not an entity owned or controlled by a bond worker or a bond worker's spouse, parent, child, sibling or cousin; a sibling of a bond worker's parent; or a person related to a bond worker in the same manner by marriage or by any combination of a bond worker and the bond worker's family members described in this paragraph; [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §38 (COR).]

D. The lessor is a leasing business as evidenced by a lease of logging equipment to at least 3 different, unrelated entities within each of the past 3 years; and [PL 2011, c. 620, §1 (AMD).]

E. The lessor provides proof of payment of personal property tax assessed on the leased equipment. [PL 2011, c. 620, §1 (NEW).]

[RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §38 (COR).]

2-A. Notification. An employer filing for certification from the United States Department of Labor to hire a bond worker to operate logging equipment shall at the time of filing notify the Maine Department of Labor and provide, for the year in which the bond worker is employed, the number of bond workers requested; a list of each piece of logging equipment, including serial number, a bond worker will operate; receipts for payment for the logging equipment purchased in bona fide transactions; and documentation of payment of any tax assessed on the logging equipment pursuant to Title 36, chapter 105. An employer shall notify the Maine Department of Labor within 14 calendar days of the date on which a bond worker begins work in the State and shall specify the name of the bond worker and the anticipated locations where the bond worker will be conducting work and shall provide a copy of the United States Customs and Border Protection's entry form for that worker. The employer shall certify to the Maine Department of Labor that the employer is not requiring the bond worker to engage in point-to-point hauling of forest products within the State or to otherwise violate federal cabotage laws. If the notification is not provided within 14 calendar days of the date on which a bond worker begins work, a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$25,000 must be assessed against that employer and collected by the Commissioner of Labor. [PL 2021, c. 665, §2 (AMD).]

2-B. Violation. Upon an employer's conviction of a violation of subsection 2, the Commissioner of Labor may prohibit the employer from employing bond workers in this State for 2 years. [PL 2011, c. 620, §1 (AMD).]

3. Equipment covered by federal prevailing wage exempt. This section does not apply to equipment for which the United States Department of Labor, Division of Foreign Labor Certification

has established a prevailing wage under the federal Service Contract Act of 1965 for persons using that equipment.

[PL 2005, c. 461, §1 (NEW).]

4. Enforcement; rules. The Commissioner of Labor may adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions of this section, including rules regarding the receipt of documentation and the investigation and prosecution of employer proof of ownership of logging equipment. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §1 (AMD).]

5. Penalty; enforcement.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §1 (RP).]

6. Assistance. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services shall provide interagency support and field information to assist the Department of Labor in enforcing this section.

[PL 2009, c. 637, §9 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 461, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 201, §11 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 381, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 637, §§3-9 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 620, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV). RR 2013, c. 1, §42 (COR). PL 2021, c. 665, §§1, 2 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §38 (COR).

§873. Recruitment of qualified workers for logging occupations

1. Definitions.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (RP).]

2. Employer requirements; clearinghouse and reporting.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (RP).]

3. Clearinghouse requirements.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (RP).]

4. Department role.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (RP).]

4-A. Department role. The Maine Department of Labor shall:

A. In addition to enforcing federal requirements imposed by 20 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 655, Subpart B, through the Bureau of Employment Services assist members of the forest products industry to ensure logging employment opportunities for Maine workers, match qualified applicants with logging employers and provide such other assistance to logging employers as may be appropriate; [PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (NEW).]

B. With input from representatives of the forest industry, provide educational and training opportunities in order for workers who express an interest in the logging industry to obtain necessary skills; and [PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (NEW).]

C. In conjunction with the Department of Education and representatives of the forest and logging industries, develop an entry-level logger training program with the goal of providing new qualified workers to the logging industry. The training program must include classroom and on-the-job training and must be provided through existing community colleges, technical schools or the University of Maine System whenever practicable. [PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (NEW).]

5. Job offer; skills test. Upon referral of an applicant by the Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Services, a logging employer may offer employment to that applicant based on the following factors.

A. An employment offer may be conditioned on a skills test, but only if the employer requires the skills test of all new applicants in that job classification. [PL 2009, c. 637, §10 (NEW).]

B. If a skills test under paragraph A is required, it must be conducted at the area of intended employment, a central location designated by the logging employer, the employer's place of employment or another location within reasonable distance from the applicant's residence. [PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (RP).]

D. An applicant who is rejected from employment due to failing a skills test under paragraph A must be given a written statement of the reason for failure of the skills test. The employer shall provide a copy of the written statement to the Maine Department of Labor. [PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (AMD).]

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (AMD).]

6. Contracts with landowners. A contract for harvesting wood between a logging employer and a landowner must contain a provision that allows the landowner to terminate the contract if the logging employer violates this section or the applicable federal regulations regarding employment of bond workers.

[PL 2009, c. 637, §10 (NEW).]

7. Penalties.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (RP).]

8. Landowner contracts with employers.

[PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2009, c. 2, §§73, 74 (COR). PL 2009, c. 637, §10 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 620, §2 (AMD).

§874. Fund established

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 637, §11 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 620, §3 (RP).

SUBCHAPTER 10

EMPLOYMENT DURING EXTREME PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

§875. Employment leaves for caregivers and persons affected by extreme public health emergency

1. Required leave. An employer shall grant reasonable and necessary leave from work, with or without pay, for an employee for the following reasons related to an extreme public health emergency:

A. The employee is unable to work because the employee is under individual public health investigation, supervision or treatment related to an extreme public health emergency; [PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

B. The employee is unable to work because the employee is acting in accordance with an extreme public health emergency order; [PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

C. The employee is unable to work because the employee is in quarantine or isolation or is subject to a control measure in accordance with extreme public health emergency information or directions issued to the public, a part of the public or one or more individuals; [PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

D. The employee is unable to work because of a direction given by the employee's employer in response to a concern of the employer that the employee may expose other individuals in the workplace to the extreme public health emergency threat; or [PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

E. The employee is unable to work because the employee is needed to provide care or assistance to one or more of the following individuals: the employee's spouse or domestic partner; the employee's parent; or the employee's child or child for whom the employee is the legal guardian. [PL 2021, c. 567, §43 (AMD).]

For purposes of this subsection, "extreme public health emergency" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 801, subsection 4-A.

[PL 2021, c. 567, §43 (AMD).]

2. Exceptions. An employer who fails to grant a leave under subsection 1 is not in violation of subsection 1 if:

A. The employer would sustain undue hardship from the employee's absence, including the need to downsize for legitimate reasons related to the impact of the extreme public health emergency on the operation of the business; [PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

B. The request for leave is not communicated to the employer within a reasonable time under the circumstances; or [PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

C. The employee to be granted leave under subsection 1, paragraph E is a state, county or municipal employee whose responsibilities are related to services necessary for protecting the public's health and safety in an extreme public health emergency if the employer requires the employee to work, unless there are no other options or persons able to provide care or assist one or more of the individuals listed under subsection 1, paragraph E. [PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

3. Duration of leave. Leave granted under subsection 1 must be for the duration of an extreme public health emergency and for a reasonable and necessary time period following the termination of the extreme public health emergency for diseases or conditions that are contracted or exposures that occurred during the extreme public health emergency.

[PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

4. Documentation. Upon the employee's return to work, the employer has the right to request and receive written documentation from a physician or public health official supporting the employee's leave.

[PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

5. Benefits retained. The taking of leave under this subchapter may not result in the loss of any employee benefits accrued before the date on which the leave commenced and does not affect the employee's right to health insurance benefits on the same terms and conditions as applicable to similarly situated employees. For any leave that extends beyond the time described in subsection 3, the employer shall allow an employee to continue the employee's benefits at the employee's expense. The employer and employee may negotiate for the employer to maintain benefits at the employer's expense for the duration or any portion of this extended leave.

[PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

6. Civil penalties. The Department of Labor may assess civil penalties of up to \$200 for each violation of this section if notice of the violation is given to the employer and the department within 6 months of the occurrence.

[PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

7. Application. This subchapter applies to all public and private employers, including the State and its political subdivisions.

[PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 383, §23 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §80 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 567, §43 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 11

VETERAN PREFERENCE

§876. Short title

This subchapter may be known and cited as "the Voluntary Veteran Preference Employment Policy Act." [PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).

§877. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).]

1. DD Form 214. "DD Form 214" means an Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge or its predecessor or successor forms.

[PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).]

2. Private employer. "Private employer" means a sole proprietor, corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other entity with one or more employees. "Private employer" does not include the State, a county, a municipality, a township, a school district or a public institution of higher education. [PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).]

3. Veteran. "Veteran" means a person who has served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, or has served in the national guard of any state or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, and was discharged or released with an honorable discharge.

[PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).]

4. Veteran preference employment policy. "Veteran preference employment policy" means a private employer's preference for hiring, promoting or retaining a veteran over another qualified applicant or employee.

[PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).

§878. Veteran preference employment policy

A private employer may have a veteran preference employment policy. The policy must be in writing and must be applied uniformly to employment decisions regarding hiring, promotion or

retention during a reduction in workforce. A private employer may require that a veteran submit a DD Form 214 to be eligible for the preference. [PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 576, §4 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 12

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS SIGNS

§879. Human trafficking awareness signs

1. Department provides public awareness signs. The Department of Labor shall provide the Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority and each employer in the State that is a business or employer listed in subsection 3 with public awareness signs that contain a telephone number for a national human trafficking hotline.

[PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

2. Departments posting public awareness signs. The Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority shall work cooperatively and shall post and keep posted in a conspicuous manner in every transportation center and every highway rest area and welcome center a public awareness sign provided by the Department of Labor pursuant to subsection 1.

[PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

3. Businesses and employers posting public awareness signs. The following businesses and employers shall post and keep posted in a conspicuous manner that is clearly visible to the public and to employees within their businesses and places of employment public awareness signs provided by the Department of Labor pursuant to subsection 1:

A. A Department of Labor career center; [PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

B. An office that provides services under the Governor's Jobs Initiative Program under section 2031; [PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

C. A hospital or facility providing emergency medical services that is licensed under Title 22, section 1811; [PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

D. An eating and lodging place licensed under Title 22, chapter 562; [PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

E. An adult entertainment nightclub or bar, adult spa, establishment featuring strippers or erotic dancers or other sexually oriented business; [PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

F. A money transmitter licensed under Title 32, chapter 79-A; and [PL 2023, c. 662, §1 (AMD).]

G. A check cashing business or foreign currency exchange business registered under Title 32, chapter 80, subchapter 2. [PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 662, §1 (AMD).]

4. Penalty. A person who fails to post a sign as required by subsection 3 commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$300 per violation must be adjudged.

[PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 416, §4 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 662, §1 (AMD).

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