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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
127TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT " " to S.P. 701, L.D. 1695, Bill, "An Act To Raise the Minimum Wage Incrementally to \$10 Per Hour in 2020"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Raise the Minimum Wage Incrementally to \$10 Per Hour in 2019'

Amend the bill by inserting after the title the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Maine's minimum wage has not increased since 2009; and

Whereas, Maine workers who earn at or near the minimum wage are among the most economically vulnerable of our citizens; and

Whereas, Maine is one of 2 states facing a so-called demographic winter characterized by fewer births than deaths and fewer new workers entering the workforce than older workers retiring from it; and

Whereas, Maine's so-called demographic winter has created a net workforce shortage; and

Whereas, an increase in the minimum wage addresses this workforce shortage by attracting more workers; and

Whereas, to effect a minimum wage increase that Maine's small businesses can afford requires reasonable lead time for those employers to plan for the implementation of such an increase; and

Whereas, 2 months from the immediate enactment of this legislation is the shortest time period needed for employers to plan for the need to implement a higher wage without causing business disruptions and imposing costs adverse to employee welfare; and

Whereas, this legislation raises the minimum wage on July 1, 2016 and emergency enactment is necessary to allow employers to plan for implementation without business disruptions and imposing costs adverse to employee welfare; and

SENATE AMENDMENT

