**§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 or 629‑B is subject to a forfeiture of not less than $100 nor more than $500 for each violation. [PL 2021, c. 404, §2 (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).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025
. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.