

# 2017 WORK Updates

Updates the information presented on page 55 and page 58 of the original manual

**Changes to Maine's state minimum wage for hourly and tipped workers:** <sup>1 2</sup> On Election Day in November 2016, Maine voters approved an increase in the minimum wage across the state of Maine beginning on January 7, 2017. The table below describes the increases to the hourly wage approved by the voters.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-2023	2024 and after
Minimum Wage	\$9	\$10	\$11	\$12	Increases with the cost of living	Increases with the cost of living
Base or direct wage for tipped workers	\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8	2021: \$9 2022: \$10 2023: \$11 2024:\$12	The same as the minimum wage

In addition to an increase in the hourly minimum wage, voters also approved phasing out the separate tipped wage. The tipped minimum wage is the base wage - or direct wage - that an employer is required to pay a tipped worker. The difference between that and the minimum wage is called a tip credit and can be made up by the employee's tips. If an employee doesn't make enough in tips to to earn at least the full minimum wage, the employer must make up the difference.

The tipped wage across Maine will be \$5 per hour beginning in 2017, and it will increase by \$1 every year until it reaches \$12 in 2024. According to the new law, after 2024 the tipped wage will be eliminated and the regular hourly minimum wage will apply.

<sup>1</sup> "About the Campaign," Mainers for Fair Wages. Retrieved from <http://fairwagemaine.com/about/>

<sup>2</sup> "New Minimum-Wage and Overtime-Exempt Minimum Salary Take Effect in Maine Jan. 7." Maine Government News. Retrieved from <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal+News&id=723943&v=article-2016>

**Portland's minimum wage ordinance:** <sup>3 4</sup> In 2015, Portland City Council passed an ordinance to raise the minimum wage, becoming the first city in New England to do so. The Southern Maine Workers' Center was one of the organizations that campaigned to raise the minimum wage. On January 1, 2016, Portland minimum wage increased to \$10.10. On January 1, 2017 the minimum wage increased again to \$10.68. Portland also increased the tipped wage to \$5 to align the city's ordinance with the new state law. Beginning in 2018 the minimum wage in Portland will be increase according to inflation, while the tipped wage will increase according to state law.

If you work in Portland and are not being paid at least the Portland minimum wage, you can file a written complaint with the City Manager's office:

389 Congress St.  
Room 208  
Portland, ME 04101

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<sup>3</sup> "Minimum Wage," Portland City Government. Retrieved from <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1671/Minimum-Wage>

<sup>4</sup> Anderson, J. Craig. "New Maine Law Prompts Portland to Amend its Minimum Wage Ordinance." Portland Press Herald. December 22, 2016. Retrieved from <http://www.pressherald.com/2016/12/22/portland-amends-city-minimum-wage-ordinance/>