

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 797

S.P. 363

In Senate, March 4, 2025

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Work Search Efforts for  
Unemployment Benefits and to Eliminate Benefits for Temporary  
Unemployment**

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Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 27, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 456, §18, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Has registered for work.** The individual has registered for work at, and continued  
5 to report at, an employment office in accordance with rules the commissioner adopts,  
6 except that the commissioner may, by rule, waive or alter either or both of the requirements  
7 of this subsection as to individuals attached to regular jobs and as to such other types of  
8 cases or situations with respect to which the commissioner finds that compliance with the  
9 requirements would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the purposes of this  
10 chapter. A rule under this subsection may not conflict with section 1191, subsection 1.

11 The individual must actively seek work 3 times each week in which a claim for benefits is  
12 filed unless the individual is participating in approved training under subsection 6 ~~or work~~  
13 ~~search has been waived in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner~~ and provide  
14 evidence of work search efforts in a manner and form as prescribed by the Department of  
15 Labor. Failure to provide required work search documentation results in a denial of  
16 benefits in accordance with section 1194, subsection 2 for the week or weeks for which no  
17 documentation was provided unless the department determines there is good cause for the  
18 individual's failure to comply with this requirement.

19 A. Acceptable work search efforts under this subsection include:

- 20 (1) Submitting a resume to an employer;  
21 (2) Completing and submitting a job application to an employer or recruiter;  
22 (3) Attending and completing an interview or skills test with an employer;  
23 (4) Attending a job fair;  
24 (5) Completing an online or in-person job search workshop or job club;  
25 (6) Completing a job search assessment, including but not limited to a skills  
26 assessment;  
27 (7) Participating in a volunteer or on-the-job training opportunity likely to lead to  
28 paid employment;  
29 (8) Taking a civil service exam;  
30 (9) Developing a complete resume in the State's employment services system;  
31 (10) Completing career direction research or work, such as a job search plan or a  
32 targeted employer list;  
33 (11) Completing job search branding and marketing activities such as completing  
34 a resume, cover letter or master application, creating an online professional  
35 networking profile or uploading a completed resume to a job board, allowing  
36 visibility to employers;  
37 (12) Completing an online or in-person mock interview; and  
38 (13) Participating in job search counseling.

39 B. Required evidence of work search efforts under this subsection must be submitted  
40 to the Department of Labor each week via an online portal or by submitting a paper

1 form documenting such efforts to the Department of Labor, job center or other  
2 designated office no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday of the week in which the work  
3 search efforts were completed. Such a form must require the claimant to report the  
4 following:

5 (1) The effort taken to fulfill each of the 3 weekly work search requirements;

6 (2) The employer, employment office, program or agency with which the claimant  
7 interacted or educational program in which the claimant participated;

8 (3) The dates of the work search efforts; and

9 (4) A point of contact for each employer, employment office, program, agency or  
10 educational program so the Department of Labor may verify each effort.

11 C. Prior to paying any weekly unemployment benefits to a claimant, the Department  
12 of Labor shall verify that the claimant submitted the required weekly report of work  
13 search efforts. Each week, the Department of Labor shall select a sample of at least  
14 10% of all work search effort reports for random audits with employers, employment  
15 offices or educational programs of reported work search efforts;

16 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§13**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 233, §1, is further  
17 amended to read:

18 **13. Reemployment services and eligibility assessment; participation.** In the case  
19 that the individual has been referred to reemployment services and eligibility assessment  
20 by the Department of Labor, the individual participates in those services, unless the  
21 department determines there is good cause for the individual's failure to participate. Failure  
22 to participate in reemployment services and eligibility assessment without good cause  
23 results in a denial of benefits until the individual participates; and

24 **Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§14**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 233, §2, is repealed.

## 25 SUMMARY

26 This bill updates the eligibility conditions for unemployment compensation to require  
27 an individual to actively seek work 3 times each week to be considered eligible and  
28 removes the provision exempting an individual from this requirement by receiving a waiver  
29 by the Commissioner of Labor. The bill establishes acceptable work search efforts for the  
30 purpose of fulfilling the requirements to receive unemployment compensation, establishes  
31 submission requirements for the evidence of a work search to be submitted to the  
32 Department of Labor and establishes verification and audit requirements for the  
33 department. The bill also removes the provision allowing an individual to receive  
34 unemployment compensation while temporarily unemployed.