

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REVISED STATUTES
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
1954

1957 CUMULATIVE SUPPLEMENT

ANNOTATED

IN FIVE VOLUMES

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THE MICHIE COMPANY
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
1957

Chapter 29.

Maine Employment Security Law.

Statement of Policy and Title of Chapter.

Sec. 1. Statement of policy.—Economic insecurity due to unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals and welfare of the people of this state. Unemployment is therefore a subject of general interest and concern which requires appropriate action by the legislature to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which may fall upon the unemployed worker, his family and the entire community. The achievement of social security requires protection against this greatest hazard of our economic life. This objective can be furthered by operating free public employment offices in affiliation with a nation-wide system of public employment services; by devising appropriate methods for reducing the volume of unemployment; and by the systematic accumulation of funds during periods of employment from which benefits may be paid for periods of unemployment, thus maintaining purchasing power, promoting the use of the highest skills of unemployed workers and limiting the serious social consequences of unemployment. (R. S. c. 24, § 1. 1949, c. 430, § 1. 1957, c. 381, § 1.)

Effect of amendment.—The 1957 amendment rewrote this section. pose of accomplishing its objectives—the stabilization of employment conditions and the amelioration of unemployment.

Construction and purpose.—The Maine employment security law is remedial and must be liberally construed for the purpose of accomplishing its objectives—the stabilization of employment conditions and the amelioration of unemployment. *Stewart v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 152 Me. 114, 125 A. (2d) 83.

Definitions.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

I. “Agricultural labor” includes all services performed on a farm in the employ of the operator of such farm, in connection with the cultivation of the soil, the harvesting of crops, or the raising of livestock, bees or poultry, or fur-bearing animals, or in connection with the processing, packing or marketing of the produce of such farm. Provided, however, that storage sheds operated by the operator of a farm shall be considered as being part of the farm. The term “farm” shall include stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, fur-bearing animal and truck farms, nurseries, greenhouses and orchards. (1957, c. 381, § 2)

IX. “Employer” means:

A. Prior to January 1, 1956, any employing unit which for some portion of a day, but not necessarily simultaneously, in each of 20 different weeks, whether or not such weeks are or were consecutive, within any calendar year, has or had in employment 8 or more individuals, irrespective of whether the same individuals are or were employed in each such day; (1955, c. 421, § 1. 1957, c. 381, § 3)

A-1. On and after January 1, 1956, any employing unit which for some portion of a day, but not necessarily simultaneously, in each of 20 different weeks, whether or not such weeks were consecutive, within a calendar year starting with 1955, had in employment 4 or more individuals, irrespective of whether the same individuals are or were employed in each such day. However, no contributions shall be payable from those employers covered by this paragraph for the calendar year 1955; (1955, c. 421, § 1. 1957, c. 381, § 4)

E. Any employing unit not an employer by reason of any other paragraph of this subsection, for which within either the current or preceding calendar year service in employment is or was performed with respect to which such employing unit is liable for any federal tax against which credit may be

taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment fund; (1947, c. 375, § 12. 1955, c. 421, § 2)

XI.**F.**

2. Service performed in the employ of the United States government or an instrumentality of the United States immune under the constitution of the United States from the contributions imposed by the provisions of this chapter, except that on and after January 1, 1940, to the extent that the Congress of the United States has permitted states to require any instrumentalities of the United States to make payments into an unemployment compensation fund under a state unemployment compensation or employment security law, all of the provisions of this chapter shall be applicable to such instrumentalities and to services performed for such instrumentalities, in the same manner, to the same extent and on the same terms as to all other employers, employing units, individuals and services. If this state shall not be certified for any year by the Secretary of Labor under section 3304 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, the payments required of such instrumentalities with respect to such year shall be refunded by the commission from the fund in the same manner and within the same period as is provided in subsection IV of section 19 with respect to contributions erroneously collected; (1951, c. 204, § 2. 1957, c. 381, § 5)

10. Services performed in the employ of any other state, or any political subdivision thereof, or any instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing which is wholly owned by one or more states or political subdivisions; and any services performed in the employ of any instrumentality of one or more other states or their political subdivisions to the extent that the instrumentality is, with respect to such service, immune under the constitution of the United States from the tax imposed by section 3301 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code; (1957, c. 381, § 6)

11. Service performed in any calendar quarter in the employ of any organization exempt from income tax under section 501 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, if:

- a. The remuneration for such service is less than \$50, or
- b. Such service is in connection with the collection of dues or premiums for a fraternal beneficiary society, order or association and is performed away from the home office, or is ritualistic service in connection with any such society, order or association, or
- c. Such service is performed by a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at a school, college or university; (1951, c. 204, § 3. 1957, c. 381, § 7)

12. Service performed in the employ of an agricultural or horticultural organization exempt from income tax under section 501 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code; (1957, c. 381, § 7)

15. Service performed in any calendar quarter in the employ of a school, college or university, not exempt from income tax under section 501 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, if such service is performed by a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at such school, college or university; (1951, c. 204, § 4. 1957, c. 381, § 8)

XVII.

A. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to him and during which he performs no services. (1953, c. 323, § 1. 1957, c. 344, § 1)

B. An individual shall be deemed "partially unemployed" in any week of less than full-time work if his wages payable from any source for such week are less than the weekly benefit amount he would be entitled to receive if totally unemployed and eligible. (1951, c. 204, § 6. 1953, c. 323, § 1. 1957, c. 344, § 1)

XIX.

D. The amount of any payment, other than vacation or sick pay, made after January 1, 1958, to an individual after the month in which he attains the age of 65, if he did not perform services for the employing unit in the period for which such payment is made. (1951, c. 204, § 9. 1957, c. 381, § 9)

Effect of amendments.—The 1955 amendment added the words "Prior to January 1, 1956" at the beginning of paragraph A of subsection IX, added paragraph A-1 of subsection IX and rewrote paragraph E of subsection IX.

The first 1957 amendment deleted clauses excepting holiday pay from paragraphs A and B of subsection XVII. The second 1957 amendment rewrote subsection I, substituted "any year" for "either the current or the preceding year" in paragraph A of subsection IX, rewrote paragraph A-1 of subsection IX, changed the references to the Federal Internal Revenue Code in subparagraphs 2, 10, 11, 12 and 15 of paragraph F of subsection XI, and rewrote paragraph D of subsection XIX.

Only the paragraphs added or changed by the amendments are set out.

"Agricultural labor."—Employees, such as servicemen pickup crews and grain crews, of a contract producer of poultry were held to be within the definition of "agricultural labor" and within the exemption contained in this section. *Maplewood Poultry Co. v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 151 Me. 467, 121 A. (2d) 360, decided under the former wording of subsection I of this section, which contained no requirement that agricultural labor be performed for the farmer and not for a third person. Under the former subsection, "agricultural labor" could be performed by one "in the employ of any person."

"Acquire the organization, trade or business."—The legislature in using the phrase, "acquire the organization, trade or business," in subsection IX, paragraph C, of this section, contemplated a situation in which there is continuity of the enterprise relatively uninterrupted by the transfer of ownership. The legislative concept was one of succession to and continuation of a business, ordinarily as a

going concern. *Stewart v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 152 Me. 114, 125 A. (2d) 83.

Petitioner did not "acquire the organization, trade, or business" from an estate, where he did not purchase or use the name, the good will, the cash or the accounts and notes receivable, and the leasehold estate which he acquired did not come from the estate but from the widow of the deceased, and he did not take over employees from the estate, but hired them individually. *Stewart v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 152 Me. 114, 125 A. (2d) 83.

"Substantially all of the assets thereof."

—In determining legislative intent with reference to the phrase, "substantially all of the assets thereof," in subsection IX, paragraph C, of this section, the supreme judicial court prefers to assign the literal meaning to the words employed and test the facts accordingly. *Stewart v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 152 Me. 114, 125 A. (2d) 83.

Proof that one acquired "substantially all of the assets" of a business is not satisfied by mere conjecture or surmise as to what "all of the assets" consisted of at the time of acquisition. *Stewart v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 152 Me. 114, 125 A. (2d) 83.

Pension payments are not "wages" within the meaning of subsection XVII of this section. *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359.

A pension payment, characterized as "retirement separation pay," does not become a wage payment "with respect to" the weeks following retirement, merely because the amount of the pension payment is computed with respect to a contract formula relating to weekly wages during the last week of service. *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359.

The Commission.

Sec. 4. Administrative organization.—

II. Salaries. The chairman of the commission shall receive a fixed weekly salary, at the rate of \$9,000 per year, and each of the other members shall receive a fixed weekly salary, at the rate of \$8,450 per year, and shall be paid from the employment security administration fund. (1945, c. 367, 1949, c. 401, § 2, 1951, c. 412, § 7, 1955, c. 473, § 7, 1957, c. 418, § 8.)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment increased the salary of the chairman of the commission from \$7,000 to \$8,000 and of the other members from \$6,500 to \$7,500 per year.

The 1957 amendment, effective July 1,

1957, increased the salary of the chairman from \$8,000 to \$9,000 and of the other members from \$7,500 to \$8,450.

As only subsection II was changed by the amendments, the rest of the section is not set out.

Powers and Duties.

Sec. 5. Administration.

V. Advisory council. The commission shall appoint a state advisory council consisting of not more than 9 members composed of an equal number of employer representatives and employee representatives who may fairly be regarded as representative because of their vocation, employment or affiliations and an equal number of members representing the general public. Such council shall meet no less than 4 times a year and shall aid the commission in formulating policies and discussing problems related to the administration of the provisions of this chapter and in assuring impartiality and freedom from political influence in the solution of such problems. Each member of the advisory council shall be compensated in the amount of \$20 for each day in attendance upon a meeting of the council in addition to reimbursement for any necessary expenses; provided, however, that such compensation paid to any one member of the council shall not exceed the sum of \$240 in any 1 fiscal year. (1947, c. 375, § 16, 1955, c. 350)

XIII. Regulations for filing payroll reports; penalty. The commission may prescribe regulations for the filing of payroll reports for the employing units in the state and the failure on the part of any employing unit to file the payroll reports within the time stated by the regulation of the commission shall render the employing unit liable to a penalty of \$10, unless the delay was occasioned by the illness or death of the person in charge of the records of the employing unit or by other unavoidable accident which shall excuse the employing unit from said penalty. (1945, c. 198, 1955, c. 421, § 3)

Effect of amendments. — The first 1955 amendment substituted "shall" for "may" near the beginning of the first sentence of subsection V, inserted the words "shall meet no less than 4 times a year and" near the beginning of the second sentence of subsection V, and substituted "\$20" for "\$10" and "\$240" for "\$120" in the third sentence of subsection V. The second 1955 amendment changed the penalty provided in subsection XIII from \$5 a day for the first day of delinquency and \$1 for each

day thereafter to \$10. As the rest of the section was not changed by the amendments, only subsections V and XIII are set out.

Regulatory power of commission may not be exerted to change statute.—The regulatory power of the commission under this section may not be exerted to change, modify, extend or limit any law enacted by the legislature. *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359.

Management of Funds.

Sec. 10. Withdrawals.—Moneys shall be requisitioned from the state's account in the unemployment trust fund solely for the payment of benefits and for the payment of refunds pursuant to subparagraph 2 of paragraph F of subsection XI of section 3 and section 19 in accordance with regulations prescribed by the

commission. The commission shall from time to time requisition from the unemployment trust fund such amounts, not exceeding the amounts standing to this state's account therein, as it deems necessary for the payment of such benefits and refunds for a reasonable future period. Upon receipt thereof the treasurer of state shall deposit such moneys in the benefit account and warrants shall be issued for the payment of benefits and refunds solely from such benefit account. All such warrants for the payment of benefits from the benefit account shall be prepared by and shall be signed by the chairman of the commission, and countersigned by the remaining 2 members of the commission, and when so signed and countersigned and delivered to the payee shall become a check against a designated bank or trust company acting as a depository of the state government. The commission shall be the sole judge of the legality or propriety of any award of benefits, or the amount thereof, appearing in any such warrant prepared by the chairman, subject only to the right of appeal as provided in subsections VIII and IX of section 16. Any balance of moneys requisitioned from the unemployment trust fund which remains unclaimed or unpaid in the benefit account after the expiration of the period for which such sums were requisitioned shall either be deducted from estimates for, and may be utilized for the payment of, benefits and refunds during succeeding periods, or, in the discretion of the commission, shall be redeposited with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America, to the credit of this state's account in the unemployment trust fund, as provided in section 9. (R. S. c. 24, § 9. 1949, c. 430, § 1. 1955, c. 312, § 2. 1957, c. 381, § 10.)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment rewrote the fourth sentence and substituted "chairman" for "commission" near the end of the fifth sentence. The 1957 amendment substituted "the remaining 2 members" for "a designated member" in the fourth sentence.

Benefits.

Sec. 13. Benefits.—

II. Weekly benefit amount for total unemployment. On and after April 1, 1957, each eligible individual who is totally unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week, benefits at the rate shown in column (C) of the schedule below on the line on which in column (A) there is indicated the individual's wage class and such rate shall be individual's weekly benefit amount; and the maximum total amount of benefits payable to any eligible individual during any benefit year shall be the amount listed in column (D). The individual's wage class shall be determined by the total amount of wages paid to him for insured work, during his base period as shown in column (B).

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
1.	\$ 0.00 up to \$ 299.99	None	None
2.	300.00 up to 349.99	\$ 7.00	\$182.00
3.	350.00 up to 399.99	8.00	208.00
4.	400.00 up to 449.99	9.00	234.00
5.	450.00 up to 499.99	10.00	260.00
6.	500.00 up to 599.99	11.00	286.00
7.	600.00 up to 699.99	12.00	312.00
8.	700.00 up to 799.99	13.00	338.00
9.	800.00 up to 899.99	14.00	364.00
10.	900.00 up to 999.99	15.00	390.00
11.	1000.00 up to 1099.99	17.00	442.00
12.	1100.00 up to 1199.99	18.00	468.00
13.	1200.00 up to 1299.99	19.00	494.00
14.	1300.00 up to 1399.99	20.00	520.00
15.	1400.00 up to 1499.99	21.00	546.00
16.	1500.00 up to 1599.99	22.00	572.00

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	
17.	1600.00 up to	1699.99	23.00	598.00
18.	1700.00 up to	1849.99	24.00	624.00
19.	1850.00 up to	1999.99	25.00	650.00
20.	2000.00 up to	2149.99	26.00	676.00
21.	2150.00 up to	2299.99	28.00	728.00
22.	2300.00 up to	2449.99	29.00	754.00
23.	2450.00 up to	2599.99	30.00	780.00
24.	2600.00 up to	2749.99	31.00	806.00
25.	2750.00 up to	2899.99	32.00	832.00
26.	2900.00 and over		33.00	858.00

(1945, c. 301. 1947, c. 340. 1949, c. 291, § 1; c. 444. 1953, c. 327. 1955, c. 367. 1957, c. 341)

III. Weekly benefit for partial unemployment. On and after April 1, 1957, each eligible individual who is partially unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a partial benefit in an amount equal to his weekly benefit amount less that part of his earnings paid or payable to him with respect to such week which is in excess of \$5 plus any fraction of a dollar. [1945, c. 285. 1949, c. 291, § 2. 1951, c. 204, § 15-A. 1953, c. 323, § 2; c. 326. 1955, c. 377. 1957, c. 344, § 2]. (R. S. c. 24, § 3. 1945, cc. 284, 285, 301. 1947, c. 340. 1949, c. 291, §§ 1, 2, 3; c. 430, § 1; c. 444. 1951, c. 204, § 15-A. 1953, c. 323, § 2; cc. 326, 327. 1955, cc. 367, 377. 1957, c. 341; c. 344, § 2.)

Effect of amendments.—The first 1955 amendment, which became effective on its approval, May 17, 1955, substituted "1955" for "1953" near the beginning of subsection II and revised the schedule in subsection II. The second 1955 amendment, effective on its approval, May 19, 1955, rewrote subsection III.

The first 1957 amendment substituted "1957" for "1955" near the beginning of subsection II and revised the schedule in

such subsection. The second 1957 amendment substituted "1957" for "1955" near the beginning of subsection III and deleted a former clause excepting holiday pay at the end of such subsection.

As subsection I was not changed by the amendments, it is not set out.

Cited in *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359 (sub-§ II).

Sec. 14. Benefit eligibility conditions.

III. He is able to work and is available for work at his usual or customary trade, occupation, profession or business or in such other trade, occupation, profession or business as his prior training or experience shows him to be fitted or qualified; and in addition to having complied with the provisions of subsection II is himself making a reasonable effort to seek such work. An individual shall be ineligible to receive benefits for any week which is recognized as a vacation week for his grade, class or shift at the factory, mill, workshop or other premises where he is employed; except that an individual who is not entitled to pay for any such vacation week may qualify for benefits or credit for his waiting period if he is available for work and complies with the other conditions of eligibility; but no claimant shall be considered ineligible in any week of unemployment for failure to comply with this subsection if such failure is due to an illness or disability which occurs after he has registered for work and no work which would have been considered suitable at the time of his registration has been offered to him after the beginning of such illness or disability. The claimant shall furnish satisfactory evidence of such illness or disability in such form as the commission shall prescribe. A female claimant shall be ineligible to receive benefits, or waiting period credit, for any week wholly or partly within the 8 weeks immediately prior to the expected date of such individual's giving birth to a child and within the 4 weeks after the actual birth of her child; (1949, cc. 239, 371. 1953, c. 328. 1955, c. 421, § 4. 1957, c. 396)

IV. He has served a waiting period of 1 week of total or partial unemployment. Provided that this requirement shall not interrupt the payment of benefits for consecutive weeks of unemployment and provided further that the week immediately preceding a benefit year, if part of an uninterrupted period of unemployment which continued into such benefit year, shall be deemed, for the purpose of this subsection only, to be within such benefit year as well as within the preceding benefit year. Except as provided in this subsection, no week shall be counted as a week of total or partial unemployment for the purpose of this subsection:

A. Unless it occurs within the benefit year which includes the week with respect to which he claims payment of benefits;

B. If benefits have been paid with respect thereto;

C. Unless the individual was eligible for benefits with respect thereto as provided in this section and section 15, except for the requirements of this subsection and of paragraph B of subsection V of section 15; (1945, c. 163. 1955, c. 421, § 5. 1957, c. 381, § 11; c. 396.)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment rewrote subsection III, inserted the second sentence of subsection IV, and added the words "Except as provided in this subsection" at the beginning of the third sentence of subsection IV.

The first 1957 amendment changed the reference in paragraph C of subsection IV from "paragraph C" to "paragraph B". The second 1957 amendment made former subsection III into four sentences, inserted all of the second sentence beginning with "but no claimant" and also inserted the present third sentence.

As the rest of the section was not changed by the amendments, only subsections III and IV are set out.

The test of availability for work is met if it appears that the individual is willing, able and ready to accept suitable work which he does not have good cause to refuse, that is when he is genuinely attached to the labor market. The determination entails primarily a probe of the claimant's

good-faith intention to work. *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359.

Claimants having left employment and received retirement separation pay held "available for work." — Where claimants, who had left their employment and received "retirement separation pay" as provided by contract between their union and their employer, were advanced in years and no longer physically able to perform their customary tasks, but they were able and anxious to perform lighter work, and were seeking work from their employers and from others, and were registered and reporting regularly at the employment office and had not refused any offer of employment, they were "available" for work within the meaning of the subsection III of this section, and not being otherwise disqualified, they were eligible for benefits. *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359.

Sec. 15. Disqualification for benefits.

I. For the period of unemployment subsequent to his having left his regular employment voluntarily and without good cause attributable to such employment, or with respect to a female claimant who has voluntarily left work to marry, or to perform the customary duties of a housewife, or to leave the locale to live with her husband, or to a claimant who has voluntarily removed himself from the labor market where presently employed to an area where employment opportunity is less frequent, if so found by the commission, for not less than 7 nor more than 14 weeks in addition to the waiting period of one week, and his maximum benefit amount shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to the number of such weeks of disqualification times his weekly benefit. A separation shall not be considered to be voluntary without good cause when it was caused by the illness or disability of the claimant and the claimant took all reasonable precautions to protect his employment status by having promptly notified his employer as to the reasons for his absence and by promptly requesting re-employment when he was again able to resume employment. (1955, c. 376, § 1. 1957, c. 345)

II. For the week in which he has been discharged for misconduct connected with his work, if so found by the commission, and for not less than 7 nor more than 14 weeks in addition to the waiting period of one week which immediately follow such discharge, and his maximum benefit amount shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to the number of such weeks of disqualification times his weekly benefit amount. (1955, c. 376, § 2)

III. If he has refused to accept an offer of work for which he is reasonably fitted, or has refused to accept a referral to a job opportunity when directed to do so by a local employment office of this state or another state, and the disqualification shall begin with the week in which the refusal occurred and shall continue for the duration of the period of unemployment during which such refusal occurred.

A. In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, the commission shall consider the degree of risk involved to his health, safety and morals, his physical fitness and prior training, his experience and prior earnings, his length of unemployment and prospects for securing local work in his customary occupation, and the distance of the available work from his residence.

B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter no work shall be deemed suitable and benefits shall not be denied under the provisions of this chapter to any otherwise eligible individual for refusing to accept new work under any of the following conditions:

1. If the position offered is vacant due directly to a strike, lockout or other labor dispute;
2. If the wages, hours or other conditions of work are substantially less favorable to the individual than those prevailing for similar work in the locality;
3. If as a condition of being employed the individual would be required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain from joining any bona fide labor organization. (1955, c. 376, § 3)

V. For any week with respect to which he is receiving or has received remuneration in the form of:

A. Dismissal wages or wages in lieu of notice; or

B. Benefits under the unemployment compensation or employment security law of any state or similar law of the United States;

C. Retirement pay or a pension paid, excluding a pension paid under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, directly by the employer or paid indirectly by the employer through a trust fund, insurance or other media in the manner set forth in paragraph B of subsection XIX of section 3.

If such remuneration under the provisions of paragraphs A and C is less than the benefits which would otherwise be due under the provisions of this chapter, he shall be entitled to receive for such week, if otherwise eligible, benefits reduced by the amount of such remuneration. (1957, c. 381, § 12)

VI. For any week for which the deputy finds that the claimant made a false statement or representation knowing it to be false or knowingly fails to disclose a material fact in his application to obtain benefits and his maximum benefit amount shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to the number of such weeks of disqualification times his weekly benefit amount. In addition, if the deputy finds that the claimant did in fact knowingly accept benefits to which he was not entitled, he shall find the claimant ineligible to receive any further benefits for a period of not less than 3 months nor more than one year. (1949, c. 420, § 1. 1951, c. 204, § 17. 1953, c. 317, § 1. 1955, c. 421, § 6. 1957, c. 381, § 13)

VII. For the period of unemployment next ensuing with respect to which he

was discharged for conviction of felony or misdemeanor in connection with his work. The ineligibility of such individual shall continue for all weeks subsequent until such individual has thereafter earned not less than \$300 in employment. [1955, c. 376, § 4]. (R. S. c. 24, § 5. 1949, c. 420, § 1; c. 430, § 1. 1951, c. 204, §§ 16, 17. 1953, c. 317, § 1. 1955, c. 376, §§ 1-4; c. 421, § 6. 1957, c. 345; c. 381, §§ 12, 13.)

Effect of amendments.—The first 1955 amendment rewrote subsections I and II and the first paragraph of subsection III and added subsection VII. The second 1955 amendment rewrote subsection VI.

The first 1957 amendment substituted "subsequent to his having left his regular employment voluntarily and" for "next ensuing after he has left his employment voluntarily" near the beginning of the first sentence of subsection I and added the second sentence of such subsection. The second 1957 amendment rewrote subsections V and VI.

Only the subsections changed or added by the amendments are set out.

Voluntary retirement is not "dismissal."

—Where there is mere passive acquies-

cence by the employer in a voluntary retirement pursuant to a contractual retirement plan, there is no "dismissal" within the meaning of subsection V, A, of this section. *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359.

Termination payments in lieu of notice and pension payments distinguished.—

Termination payments in lieu of notice are payments for the period with respect to which an employer would give advance notice of his intention to dismiss an employee, and are distinguishable from pension payments. *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359.

Sec. 16. Claims for benefits.—

II.

The deputy shall promptly notify the claimant and any other interested party of the determinations and reasons therefor. Unless the claimant or any such interested party, within 7 calendar days after such notification was mailed to his last known address, files an appeal from such determination, such determination shall be final and benefits shall be paid or denied in accordance therewith; provided, however, if new evidence or pertinent facts that would alter such determination become known to the deputy prior to the date such determination becomes final, a redetermination is authorized, but such redetermination must be mailed before the original determination becomes final. If an appeal is duly filed, benefits with respect to the period of any possible disqualification involved shall be paid only after the final determination of the commission; provided that if an appeal tribunal affirms a determination of a deputy or the commission affirms a determination of an appeal tribunal, allowing benefits, such benefits shall be paid regardless of any appeal which may thereafter be taken, but if such determination is finally reversed, no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid; provided further, if the claimant's appeal relates to the weekly benefit amount or maximum benefit amount potentially payable to him in the benefit year, benefits may nevertheless be paid to the extent of the deputy's determination and prior to the final determination of the commission. (1945, c. 164. 1947, c. 375, § 2. 1949, c. 420, §§ 2, 3. 1957, c. 381, § 14)

X. Determination may be reconsidered; appeal. The commission may reconsider a determination with respect to the weekly benefit amount and maximum total amount of benefits for a claimant for any given benefit year, if it finds that an error in computation or identity has occurred in connection therewith, or that wages have been erroneously reported, but no such redetermination shall be made after one year from the date of the original determination. Notice of any such redetermination shall be promptly given to the parties entitled to notice of the original determination, in the manner prescribed in this section with respect to notice of an original determination. If the maximum amount of benefits is increased upon such redetermination, an appeal therefrom

solely with respect to the matters involved in such increase may be filed in the manner and subject to the limitations provided in subsection II of this section. If the amount of benefits is decreased upon such redetermination, the matters involved in such decrease shall be subject to review in connection with an appeal by claimant with respect to subsequent benefits which may be affected by the redetermination. An appeal may be filed in the manner and subject to the limitations provided in subsection II of this section.

The commission may reconsider a benefit payment for any particular week or weeks whenever it finds that an error in computation or identity has occurred in connection therewith or that earnings were erroneously reported, but no such redetermination may be made after one year from the date of payment for such week or weeks. Notice of any such redetermination shall be promptly given to the claimant. Unless the claimant files an appeal from such redetermination within 7 calendar days after such notification was mailed to his last known address such redetermination shall be final and benefits shall be paid or denied in accordance therewith.

Subject to the same limitations and for the same reasons, the commission may reconsider the determination in any case in which the final decision has been rendered by an appeal tribunal, the commission or a court, and may apply to the body or court which rendered such final decision to issue a revised decision. In the event that an appeal involving an original determination is pending as of the date a redetermination thereof is issued, such appeal, unless withdrawn, shall be treated as an appeal from such redetermination. (1955, c. 421, § 7. 1957, c. 381, § 15)

XI. Repealed by Public Laws 1957, c. 381, § 16. (R. S. c. 24, § 6. 1945, cc. 105, 164, 165, 192. 1947, c. 375, §§ 2, 3, 7. 1949, c. 420, §§ 2, 3; c. 430, § 1. 1957, c. 381, §§ 14-16.)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment rewrote subsection X.

The 1957 amendment deleted "within 5 calendar days after the delivery of such notification, or" formerly appearing near the beginning of the second sentence of the fourth paragraph of subsection II and added the proviso to said sentence, deleted "5 calendar days from delivery or"

formerly appearing in the third sentence of the second paragraph of subsection X, and repealed former subsection XI.

Only the subsections changed by the amendments are set out.

Applied in *Dubois v. Maine Employment Security Comm.*, 150 Me. 494, 114 A. (2d) 359 (sub-§ IX).

Contributions. Employer's Coverage.

Sec. 17. Contributions.—

IV. Employer's experience classifications.

B. Subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, each employer's contribution rate for the 12-month period commencing July 1 of each year shall be based upon his experience rating record and determined from his reserve ratio, which is the percent obtained by dividing the amount by which, if any, his contributions credited from the time he first or most recently became an employer, whichever date is later, and up to and including December 31 of the preceding year (including any part of his contributions due for that year payable on or before January 31 of the current year) exceed his benefits charged during the same period, by his average annual payroll for the 36-consecutive-month period ending December 31 of the preceding year. His contribution rate is the percent shown on the line of the following table on which in column A there is indicated his reserve ratio and under the column within which the amount in the fund falls as of the computation date.

Employer's Contribution Rate in Percent of Wages

Column A Reserve Ratio		B	C	D	E	F
Equal to or more than	Less than	Over 35	Over 30 not over 35	Over 25 not over 30	Over 20 not over 25	Under 20
—	5%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
5%	6%	2.4%	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	2.7%
6%	7%	2.1%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%
7%	8%	1.9%	2.2%	2.4%	2.6%	2.7%
8%	9%	1.8%	2.1%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%
9%	10%	1.6%	1.9%	2.2%	2.4%	2.7%
10%	11%	1.5%	1.8%	2.1%	2.3%	2.7%
11%	12%	1.3%	1.6%	1.9%	2.2%	2.7%
12%	13%	1.2%	1.5%	1.8%	2.1%	2.7%
13%	14%	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%	2.0%	2.7%
14%	15%	1.0%	1.2%	1.5%	1.9%	2.7%
15%	16%	0.9%	1.1%	1.4%	1.8%	2.7%
16%	17%	0.8%	1 %	1.3%	1.7%	2.7%
17%	18%	0.7%	.9%	1.2%	1.6%	2.7%
18%	19%	0.6%	.8%	1.1%	1.5%	2.7%
19% and over		0.5%	.7%	1 %	1.4%	2.7%

The contribution rates provided by this paragraph shall be retroactive to July 1, 1957. (1949, c. 240, § 2; c. 420, § 5. 1957, c. 268; c. 381, § 22)

C. Repealed by Public Laws 1955, c. 421, § 8.

F.

2. The commission shall provide each employer at least monthly with a notification of benefits paid and chargeable to his experience rating record and any such notification, in the absence of an application for redetermination filed in such manner and within such period as the commission may prescribe, shall become conclusive and binding upon the employer for all purposes. Such redetermination, made after notice and opportunity for hearing, and the commission's findings of fact in connection therewith, may be introduced in any subsequent administrative or judicial proceedings involving the determination of the rate of contributions of any employer for the 12-month period commencing July 1 of any year and shall be entitled to the same finality as is provided in this section with respect to the findings of fact made by the commission in proceedings to redetermine the contribution rates of an employer. (1953, c. 317, § 3. 1955, c. 421, § 9)

G. Notwithstanding any other inconsistent provision of law, any employer, who has been notified of his rate of contribution, as required by subparagraph 1 of paragraph F of this subsection, for any year commencing July 1, may voluntarily make payment of additional contributions, and, upon such payment, shall promptly receive a recomputation and renotification of his contribution rate for such year, including in the calculation the additional contributions so made. Any such additional contribution shall be made during the 30-day period following the date of the mailing to the employer of such notice of his contribution rate in any year, unless, for good cause, the time of payment has been extended by the commission for not to exceed an additional 10 days. (1955, c. 296. 1957, c. 381, § 17)

Effect of amendments. — The first 1955 amendment added paragraph G to subsection IV. The second 1955 amendment repealed paragraph C of subsection IV and rewrote the first clause of the first sentence of subparagraph 2 of paragraph F of subsection IV.

The first 1957 amendment added the contribution rates on reserve ratios of "16%" to "19% and over" at the end of

the table in paragraph B of subsection IV. The second 1957 amendment deleted "for the year commencing July 1, 1955, or" formerly appearing in the first sentence and substituted "30-day period" for the former "10-day period" in the second sentence of paragraph G of subsection

IV, and added the last sentence to paragraph B of subsection IV.

As the rest of the section was not changed by the amendments, only paragraph B, subparagraph 2 of paragraph F, and paragraph G of subsection IV are set out.

Sec. 18. Period, election and termination of employer's coverage.—

II. Termination of employer's coverage.

A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection III of this section, an employing unit shall cease to be an employer subject to the provisions of this chapter as of the 1st day of January of any calendar year, only if it files with the commission, prior to the 31st day of January of such year, a written application for termination of coverage, and the commission finds that there were no 20 different days, each day being in a different week within the preceding calendar year, within which such employing unit employed 4 or more individuals in employment subject to the provisions of this chapter. For the purpose of this subsection, the two or more employing units mentioned in paragraph B or C or D of subsection IX of section 3 shall be treated as a single employing unit. (1955, c. 421, § 10. 1957, c. 381, § 18)

B. The commission may upon its own motion terminate coverage of any employer when the commission finds that there were no 20 different days, each day being in a different week within the preceding calendar year, within which such employing unit employed 4 or more individuals in employment subject to the provisions of this chapter; and the commission may, upon its own motion terminate the coverage of an employing unit which had become an employer by virtue of the provisions of subsection III of this section, as of January 1 of any calendar year when such employing unit has, by virtue of approval of its election to become a subject employer, been such a subject employer for the two or more preceding calendar years. (1947, c. 375, § 13. 1955, c. 421, § 10)

III. Election and termination of employer's coverage.

A. An employing unit, not otherwise subject to the provisions of this chapter, which files with the commission its written election to become an employer subject hereto for not less than 2 calendar years, shall, with the written approval of such election by the commission, become an employer subject hereto to the same extent as all other employers, as of the date stated in such approval, and shall cease to be subject hereto as of January 1st of any calendar year subsequent to such 2 calendar years, only if it files with the commission, prior to the 31st day of January of such year, a written application for termination of coverage. (1945, c. 116. 1957, c. 381, § 19)

B. Any employing unit, for which services that do not constitute employment as defined in this chapter are performed, may file with the commission a written election that all such services performed by individuals in its employ in one or more distinct establishments or places of business shall be deemed to constitute employment for all the purposes of this chapter for not less than 2 calendar years. Upon the written approval of such election by the commission, such services shall be deemed to constitute employment subject to the provisions of this chapter from and after the date stated in such approval. Such services shall cease to be deemed employment subject hereto as of January 1st of any calendar year subsequent to such 2 calendar years, if not later than January 31st of such year such employing unit has filed with the commission an application for termination of coverage. [1945,

c. 176]. (R. S. c. 24, § 8. 1945, cc. 116, 176. 1947, c. 375, § 13. 1949, c. 430, § 1. 1955, c. 421, § 10. 1957, c. 381, §§ 18, 19.)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment substituted the figure 4 for the figure 8 in line seven of paragraph A of subsection II and in line four of paragraph B of subsection II.

The 1957 amendment substituted Janu-

ary 31st for January 20th in paragraph A of subsection II and also in paragraphs A and B of subsection III.

As the rest of the section was not changed by the amendments, only subsections II and III are set out.

Sec. 19. Collection of contributions.—

I. Interest on past-due contributions. Contributions, unpaid on the date on which they are due and payable as prescribed by the commission, shall bear interest at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% per month from and after such date until payment is received by the commission. In such cases of delinquency as are shown to the satisfaction of the commission to arise from reasonable questions of liability under the terms of this chapter, the commission may, in its discretion, abate not exceeding 75% of the interest imposed. (1945, c. 166. 1953, c. 317, § 4. 1957, c. 381, § 20)

I-A. Penalty on past-due contributions. In the event quarterly contributions are not paid when due, the commission shall assess a penalty of 5% of the amount of the contributions but such penalty shall not be less than \$5 nor more than \$100. The commission may waive such penalty if it finds that the delay was occasioned by the illness or death of the person in charge of the records of the employing unit or by other unavoidable accident which shall excuse the employing unit from said penalty. Provided, however, an extension of time up to 30 days beyond the due date may be allowed by the commission for good cause upon written request made on or before the due date. (1955, c. 421, § 11)

Effect of amendments. — The 1955 amendment added the above subsection I-A after subsection I of this section.

The 1957 amendment made a former proviso of subsection I into a separate

sentence and substituted " $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%" for "1%" in the present first sentence.

As the rest of the section was not changed by the amendments, only subsections I and I-A are set out.

Seasonal Employment.

Sec. 21. Seasonal workers.—

I. As used in this section the term "seasonal industry" means an industry in which, because of the seasonal nature thereof it is customary to operate only during a regularly recurring period or periods of less than 40 weeks in a calendar year. The commission shall, after investigation and hearing, determine, and may thereafter from time to time redetermine, the longest seasonal period or periods during which, by the best practice of the industry in question, operations are conducted. Until such determination by the commission, no industry shall be deemed seasonal. (1957, c. 381, § 21)

Effect of amendment. — The 1957 amendment deleted "occupation or" formerly appearing in three places in subsection I. As subsection II was not changed by the amendment, it is not set out.