

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 4, 1962

Roy U. Sinclair, Chairman

Employment Security Commission

Frank E. Hancock, Attorney General

Attorney General

**Eligibility for Unemployment Compensation Under Chapter 361,  
Subsection II, Public Laws 1961**

Chapter 361, subsection II, P.L. 1961, approved June 9, 1961, became effective September 16, 1961. By virtue of this amendment, the minimum qualifying wage for eligibility to unemployment compensation is raised from \$300 to \$400.

We have been requested to review the above-mentioned subsection of the law as to its applicability following October 1, 1962, as well as a certain opinion written by former Attorney General, Ralph Farris, dated July 1, 1947.

The law provides -- Chapter 29, Section 13, II, and III, R. S. 1954, as amended -- that each eligible individual who is totally unemployed on and after April 1, 1957, or partially unemployed on and after April 1, 1959, shall be paid benefits with respect to such week (total or partial) at the rate (weekly and total) as shown in Column C and D of the schedule under subsection II of Section 13 in effect on and after April 1, 1957, and subsection III of Section 13 in effect after April 1, 1959.

Our Courts have held on numerous occasions that Employment Security Laws should be liberally interpreted. Therefore, it is our opinion that an eligible individual who has filed a claim after April 1, 1962, and before October 1, 1962, and thus been advised as to his weekly benefit amount and the total amount potentially available to him, shall remain in an eligible status following October 1, 1962, provided his benefits have not been exhausted before that date.

Individuals filing on or after October 1, 1962, shall have their eligibility for unemployment compensation potentially determined in accordance with the revised schedule contained in Chapter 361, subsection II, P.L. 1961.

Frank E. Hancock  
Attorney General