

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2482

H. P. 1942 House of Representatives, February 4, 1974
Referred to the Committee on Labor. Sent up for concurrence and ordered
printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hobbins of Saco.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

**AN ACT to Enable the Temporary Extensions of Unemployment
Compensation Benefits as Provided by Recent Federal Legislation
as a Result of the Energy Crisis.**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts passed by the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, shortages of petroleum products threaten severe economic dislocation, increases in unemployment and loss of income; and

Whereas, the number of unemployed in the State is increasing at a rapid rate in a limited labor market; and

Whereas, many who are now unemployed have exhausted their unemployment benefits; and

Whereas, many who are now unemployed and receiving unemployment compensation will exhaust their benefits; and

Whereas, on August 10, 1970 the 91st Congress of the United States enacted Public Law 91-373, "Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970"; and

Whereas, said Public Law 91-373 contains provisions relating to the payment of extended unemployment benefits to individuals who are unemployed and who have exhausted their rights to unemployment benefits under the

provisions in the state law or the laws of any other state or of the Federal Government; and

Whereas, said Public Law 91-373 provides that the State shall be reimbursed by the Secretary of Labor of the United States an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sum of extended benefits paid to such individuals; and

Whereas, on March 24, 1971, the 105th Legislature enacted Public Law, Chapter 119 to provide for Extended Unemployment Benefits; and

Whereas, on January 3, 1974, the 93rd Congress of the United States enacted an amendment to the "Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970" to allow States with enabling legislation to disregard the 120% provision for State "on" and "off" indicators in payment of extended benefits; and

Whereas, this is temporary legislation and applies to weeks beginning after December 31, 1973, and for weeks beginning before April 1, 1974; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 26, § 1195, sub-§ 1, ¶ G, amended. The first sentence of paragraph G of subsection 1 of section 1195 of Title 26 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 119 of the public laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

"Rate of insured unemployment" for purposes of paragraphs 1, ~~and H and L~~ means the percentage derived by dividing the average weekly number of individuals filing claims in this State for weeks of unemployment with respect to the most recent 13-consecutive-week period, as determined by the commission on the basis of its reports to the United States Secretary of Labor, by the average monthly employment covered under this chapter for the first 4 of the most recent 6 completed calendar quarters ending before the end of such 13-week period.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 26, § 1195, sub-§ 1, ¶ L, additional. Subsection 1 of section 1195 of Title 26 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by chapter 119 of the public laws of 1971, is amended by adding a new paragraph L to read as follows:

L. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, and effective with respect to compensation for weeks of unemployment beginning before April 1, 1974, and beginning after December 31, 1973, there is:

(1) State "off" indicator. There is a "state 'off' indicator" for this State for a week if the commission determines, in accordance with the regulations of the United States Secretary of Labor, that for the period consisting of such week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks, the rate of insured unemployment, not seasonally adjusted, under this chapter:

(a) Was less than 4%.

(2) State "on" indicator. There is a "state 'on' indicator" for this State for a week if the commission determines, in accordance with the regulations of the United States Secretary of Labor, that for the period consisting of such week and the immediately preceding 12 weeks, the rate of insured unemployment, not seasonally adjusted, under this chapter:

(a) Equaled or exceeded 4%.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved and shall continue in effect until midnight March 31, 1974.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to enable this State to pay benefits for an extended benefit period for a time limit up to April 1, 1974 as provided by recent Federal legislation, and whereby the State would be reimbursed by half of the dollar amount paid to claimants.