

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 476

H. P. 383

House of Representatives, January 30, 1975

Referred to Committee on Labor. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Garsoe of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Clarify Market and Public Opinion Research Services under
the Unemployment Compensation Law.

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

26 MRSA, § 1043, sub-§ 11, ¶ F, sub-¶ (30) is enacted to read:

(30) Services performed by a contract interviewer engaged in marketing research or public opinion interviewing, when such interviewing is conducted over the telephone or on premises not used or controlled by the person for whom such contract services are being provided.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the Maine Unemployment Compensation Law and to make clear that market research interviewers and public opinion research interviewers, who work in their own homes or in the field on a contract basis on specific projects are not to be considered to be in employment for the purpose of unemployment compensation contributions. Such individuals have always been regarded as independent contractors and often do interviews for many different client firms. In almost all cases it is purely part-time or casual work.

To require market research or opinion research firms to contribute to the Unemployment Compensation Fund of all of the various interviewers with whom they make contracts in the course of a year would impose a substantial and unwarranted hardship upon these businesses.