

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1537

H. P. 1230

House of Representatives, March 27, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Tierney of Durham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

**AN ACT to Provide Supplemental Unemployment Benefits to
Persons with Dependents.**

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

26 MRSA § 1191, sub-§ 6 is enacted to read :

6. Supplemental weekly benefit for dependents.

A. Each eligible individual, receiving total or partial unemployment benefits, who is a head of household, shall receive an additional and supplemental weekly benefit in the amount of \$7 for each dependent. The supplemental benefit shall not be included in determining maximum weekly benefit amounts under subsection 2; but total weekly benefits received, including this amount, shall not exceed 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the annual average weekly wage, rounded to the nearest dollar, paid in the calendar year preceding June 1st of such calendar year.

B. As used in this section :

(1) Dependents shall mean members of an eligible individual's family or next of kin who are wholly or mainly dependent upon the earnings of the eligible individual for support at the time of eligibility. The commission may by regulation prescribe the class or classes of persons, who, by their relationship to the eligible individual, shall be presumed to be dependent for support upon an eligible individual; and

(2) Head of household shall mean any eligible individual entitled to claim another person as a dependent. If 2 or more eligible individuals may claim the same dependent, the eligible individual with the highest annual average weekly wage shall be the head of household.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act is to provide supplemental unemployment benefits to eligible individuals with dependents. The supplemental benefits are \$7 a week for each dependent. This Act recognizes that unemployed single persons are in a better position to reduce expenditures than persons with dependents. Although the weekly supplemental benefits are small, they will be of some help and may alleviate the welfare burden on municipalities.