

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2256

S. P. 720

In Senate, February 24, 1976

Reported by Senator Reeves from the Joint Select Committee on Jobs pursuant to Joint Orders S. P. 391 and S. P. 555 and printed under Joint Rules No. 3.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Filed under Joint Rule 3 pursuant to S. P. 391 and 555.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

**AN ACT to Require an Annual Governor's Report on Employment
and the Economy.**

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

2 MRSA § 8 is enacted to read:

§ 8. Annual report on employment and the economy

The Governor shall, in January of each year, make a report to the Legislature and the people of the State on employment and the economy of this State. The report shall include: Data on current public and private employment by category; projected employment over the future, in one-year and 5-year periods; current unemployment and underemployment, and projections for the future, in one-year and 5-year periods; estimates of the number, type and locations of jobs required to reach full employment in the State; activities of the Executive Branch during the past year that have increased or decreased employment; public or private employment losses or gains anticipated from the Governor's proposed budget and legislation; description of the Governor's plans and legislative programs to reach full employment; recommendations for legislation; and contingency plans for unanticipated changes in employment.

STATEMENT OF FACT

A severe problem of unemployment and underemployment exists in this State and will remain for at least the next 5 years. During the past year,

unemployment has ranged between 9% and 12%, representing over 40,000 of Maine's 450,000 person labor force. Another 80,000 persons are underemployed, working part-time because full-time employment is unavailable, or working full-time but making less than a poverty level wage. This level of unemployment and underemployment is likely to continue for the rest of the decade, and it is unlikely that private employers, alone can reduce this level of unemployment to even the high 7% level.

Thus, the purpose of this bill is to focus on employment in the State, to encourage the Governor to develop the facts on unemployment and underemployment, and to seek solutions to these problems. This bill requires an annual report on unemployment and underemployment from the Governor to the Legislature and people, and requires that the report contain detailed facts and recommendations.

As a result of this focusing, the scope of the problem will become known and solutions may be developed.