

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 143

H. P. 113

House of Representatives, January 25, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Tarr of Bridgton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT Revising the Disqualification Periods for Persons who Voluntarily
Quit Work or are Discharged for Misconduct.**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA § 1193, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, first sentence, as last amended by PL 1971, c. 538, § 28, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

For the week in which he left his regular employment voluntarily without good cause attributable to such employment, or to a claimant who has voluntarily removed himself from the labor market where presently employed to an area where employment opportunity is less frequent, if so found by the commission, and disqualification shall continue until claimant has earned 8 times his weekly benefit amount; provided no disqualification shall be imposed if the individual establishes that he left employment in good faith and accepted new employment on a permanent full-time basis and he became separated from the new employment for good cause attributable to employment with the new employing unit.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA § 1193, sub-§ 2, as last amended by PL 1965, c. 381, § 14, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Discharge for misconduct. For the week in which he has been discharged for misconduct connected with his work, if so found by the commission, and disqualification shall continue until claimant has earned 8 times his weekly benefit amount.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require that persons who voluntarily quit employment or are discharged for misconduct demonstrate an attachment to

the work force by earning total wages equal to 8 times their weekly benefit amount before requalifying for unemployment compensation benefits. The purpose of this bill is consistent with the intent of the Employment Security Law to compensate persons who are out of work or laid off through no fault of their own.

At the present time, the State's Unemployment Compensation Fund is in debt approximately \$15 million.

These changes should provide a disincentive to so-called "voluntary quits" as well as employee misconduct. In addition, these amendments should serve as an incentive to persons to return to gainful employment.