

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 452

H. P. 360

House of Representatives, February 16, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Boudreau of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT Relating to Refusal to Accept Work as Disqualification for
Benefits under the Employment Security Law.**

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

26 MRSA § 1193, sub-§ 3, ¶ A is amended to read:

A. In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual, **within the first 12 consecutive weeks of his unemployment**, the commission shall consider the degree of risk involved to his health, safety and morals, his physical fitness and prior training, his experience and prior earnings, his length of unemployment and prospects or securing local work in his customary occupation, and the distance of the available work from his residence.

In determining whether or not any work is suitable for an individual after the first 12 consecutive weeks of his unemployment, the commission shall consider the degree of risk involved to his health, safety and morals, and the distance of the available work from his residence, provided that at a minimum no work shall be deemed unsuitable because of its distance from the individual's residence if such work is in the same locality or at the same distance as was a previous place of employment. Any work otherwise suitable after the first 12 consecutive weeks of unemployment is suitable if it gives to the individual wages at least equal to his weekly benefit amount for total unemployment.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill clarifies suitable work for an individual totally unemployed for an extended period. As the period of continuous unemployment increases, certain factors become less important in the determination of suitable work.