

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 828

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S. P. 270

In Senate, March 10, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Labor. Sent down for concurrence and 2,000 copies ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Pray of Penobscot.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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AN ACT Relating to Disqualification from Unemployment Compensation  
Benefits.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA § 1193, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, as last amended by PL 1971, c. 538, § 28, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. 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 for 12 weeks immediately following such week or until claimant has earned 8 times his weekly benefit amount, whichever occurs first. No individual shall be disqualified under this subsection if, after making reasonable efforts to preserve his job rights, he left his last work due to a personal emergency of such a compelling nature that it would be contrary to good conscience to impose a disqualification; or, if after making reasonable efforts to preserve his job rights, he left his last work because of illness, injury or disability, including pregnancy. Provided further that no claimant shall be disqualified if he has voluntarily left his work to accompany, follow or join his spouse or other immediate family member in a new place of residence if he can clearly show upon arrival at the new place of residence an attachment to the new labor market and is in all respects, available for suitable work. Provided further that no claimant shall be disqualified as a result of loss of transportation to or from work and the claimant has taken all reasonable steps to procure a new means of transportation;

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA § 1221, sub-§ 3, ¶ A, sub-¶ (1) is amended to read:

(1) Claimant's separation from his last employer was for misconduct in connection with his employment, or was voluntary without good cause attributable to such employer or for any other good cause excluding good cause attributable to the claimant's employment; or

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to insure that the commission shall be guided at all times by the principle that unemployment compensation insurance is for the benefit of persons who are unemployed despite their attempts to reasonably preserve their work status. This legislation recognizes that compelling circumstances may develop that temporarily disrupt the lives of people who are ordinarily workers. It seeks to remove the period of disqualification presently imposed upon persons affected by such events.