

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 888

H. P. 709

House of Representatives, March 9, 1977

On Motion of Mr. Bustin of Augusta referred to the Committee on Labor.  
Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Laffin of Westbrook.

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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, 1st sentence, as amended by PL 1971, c. 538, § 28, is further amended to read:**

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; **provided that in addition to other good cause, leaving work when it is caused by the illness or disability of the claimant, and the claimant took all reasonable precautions to protect his employment status by having promptly notified his employer as to the reason for his absence, and by promptly requesting reemployment when he is again able to resume employment, shall be considered good cause for voluntarily leaving work.**

**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 overwhelming purpose of unemployment compensation legislation is to insure labor against the distress of involuntary unemployment to protect those workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own.

Presently, Maine law levys a period of disqualification from benefits against those persons who must leave their employment for good cause other than that attributable to their employment. Thus, persons who lose their transportation to and from work, must leave the locale to maintain their family unit, or are otherwise compelled by legal or familial duty to leave their jobs, must suffer a loss of benefits. Certainly such individuals forced to leave their employment under pressure of necessity must be found to be unemployed through no fault of their own and are consequently considered in that group of persons to whom Congress intended to grant benefits without penalty.

Unemployment benefits paid through this change in the law will not be charged to employees.