

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 996

H. P. 823

House of Representatives, March 15, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. MacEachern of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Strengthen the States Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

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

26 MRSA § 1191, sub-§ 4, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 568, § 1, is further amended to read:

4. **Maximum amount of benefits.** The maximum amount of benefits which shall be paid to any eligible individual with respect to any benefit year, whether for total or partial unemployment, shall not exceed the lesser of 26 times his weekly benefit amount or $33\frac{1}{3}\%$, rounded to the nearest dollar, of his total wages paid for insured work during his base period, plus the supplemental weekly benefit for dependents payable under subsection 6, except that those persons, without dependents, and with total wages paid for insured work in only 3 calendar quarters in their base period shall be subject to an adjustment in their weekly benefit amount for total unemployment according to those wages in those 3 quarters as per the schedule of adjustments to the weekly benefit amount, hereinafter referred to in this section as the schedule. The wage level of each person, for the purpose of this adjustment shall be reduced by \$1,000 for each dependent, as defined in subsection 6, claimed by this person. The schedule shall be computed to coincide with the dates in subsection 2 and shall be effective as of June 1, 1977. The computation shall be based on the most recent published Annual Costs of an Intermediate Budget for a Four-Person Family in Portland, Maine released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The total budget column of the annual costs of an intermediate budget shall be reduced by 30%, rounded to the nearest \$100, and the resulting balance will be used to establish the lower level of the first interval in the schedule of adjustments to the weekly benefit amount. There shall be

7 intervals in the schedule, each with a range of \$1,000, between the lower and upper level.

**Schedule Adjustments to the Weekly
Benefit Amount**

Wages		Percent reduction in the derived weekly benefit amount
Equal to or more than	Less than	
\$11,000	\$12,000	.15%
12,000	13,000	.30
13,000	14,000	.45
14,000	15,000	.60
15,000	16,000	.75
16,000	17,000	.90
17,000	and up	no benefits payable

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to curb the abuse of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund by persons employed at high wage levels in industries that operate about 9 months a year. Such workers have already received a rate of pay to compensate for a 3-month layoff and yet are still permitted to draw unemployment for those 3 months when work is not available in their regular line of work.