

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 552

H. P. 501

House of Representatives, February 2, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Beaulieu of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Clarify the Spousal-leaving Provision of the Employment Security Law.

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

**26 MRSA § 1193, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, last sentence**, as amended by PL 1979, c. 515, § 15, is further amended to read:

Leaving work shall not be considered voluntary without good cause when it is caused by the illness or disability of the claimant or of his immediate family and the claimant took all reasonable precautions to protect his employment status by having promptly notified his employer as to the reasons for his absence and by promptly requesting reemployment when he is again able to resume employment; nor shall leaving work be considered voluntary without good cause if the leaving was necessary for the claimant to accompany, follow or join his spouse or betrothed in a new place of residence and he can clearly show within 14 days upon arrival at the new place of residence ~~an attachment~~ **that he has become married, is attached** to the new labor market and is in all respects able, available and actively seeking suitable work;

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Department of Manpower Affairs presently interprets this exception to the voluntary-leaving statute to cover only those persons married at the time they

leave their employment to follow their spouse to a new location. In fact what often happens is that the couple moves to a new location before the marriage takes place and are married shortly thereafter. This happens for a variety of reasons including the employment demands of one spouse or family preference. Although these claimant's situation is substantially the same as that which the statute is presently intended to protect, they are disqualified from benefits. This bill would correct that inconsistency.

This bill also changes from 7 days to 14 days that time within which a person must become attached to the new labor market. This will allow a more reasonable period of time for the move and marriage to take place.