

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 859

H. P. 727

House of Representatives, February 13, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Baker of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Amend the Voluntary Quit 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, 2nd 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 in a new place of residence and he can clearly show within 7 days upon arrival at the new place of residence an attachment to the new labor market and is in all respects able, available and actively seeking suitable work; **provided that no leaving may be considered voluntary without good cause if the leaving was caused by parental obligations such as the unavailability of child care; nor may any claimant 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 if the claimant can clearly show that he is in all respects able, available and actively seeking, suitable work;**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The unemployment compensation program, since its inception by Congress in 1936, has been intended to provide benefits to workers unemployed through no fault of their own.

Under present law persons who must leave their employment through no fault of their own because they have lost either their transportation to or from work or their child care arrangements, are disqualified from receiving benefits.

This bill would provide benefits to those unemployed workers recognizing the involuntary nature of their unemployment.