

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 993

S. P. 350

In Senate, February 25, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator C. Sewall of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Insure Unemployment Compensation for Employees who are Harassed.

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

26 MRSA § 1193, sub-§ 1, ¶ A, first sentence, as amended by PL 1979, c. 651, § 46, 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 deputy, and disqualification shall continue until claimant has earned 4 times his weekly benefit amount in employment by an employer; provided no disqualification shall be imposed if the individual establishes that he left employment in good faith and accepted new employment on a permanent full-time basis and he became separated from the new employment for good cause attributable to employment with the new employing unit; **provided that no disqualification may be imposed if the leaving was caused by sexual harassment by employer, supervisor or coworkers, as defined by the regulations promulgated by the Maine Human Rights Commission pursuant to Title 5, section 4572.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill meets the needs of women who leave employment for reason of sexual harassment. It emphasizes that they shall not be disqualified from unemployment compensation benefits and it defines that concept by reference to the Maine Human Rights' regulations.