

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1096

H. P. 925

House of Representatives, March 3, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Swazey of Bucksport.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Concerning Unemployment Compensation.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA § 1043, sub-§ 5, ¶ A, first sentence, as repealed and replaced by PL 1965, c. 381, § 2, is amended to read:

“Annual average weekly wage,” as used to establish the maximum weekly benefit amount for purposes of this chapter, shall be 1/52 of aggregate total wages paid in Maine covered employment, as reported on employer contribution reports for the calendar year, divided by the arithmetic mean of mid-month weekly covered employment reported on employer contribution reports for the calendar year; **but in no event may any annual percentage increase resulting from this computation be used to establish the maximum weekly benefit amount to the extent that the increase exceeds 50% of the increase in the consumer price index as defined in Title 5, section 1001, subsection 6-A.**

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA § 1043, sub-§ 19, ¶ A, first sentence, as amended by PL 1977, c. 570, § 18, is further amended to read:

For purposes of section 1221, the term “wages” shall not include that part of remuneration which after remuneration equal to \$3,000 through December 31, 1971, \$4,200 through December 31, 1977, ~~and on and after January 1, 1978 that part of remuneration equal to \$6,000 through December 31, 1981, and on or after~~

January 1, 1981 that part of remuneration equal to \$8,000 has been paid in a calendar year to an individual by an employer or his predecessor with respect to employment during any calendar year, is paid to such individual by such employer during such calendar year, unless that part of the remuneration is subject to a tax under a federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a state unemployment fund.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill limits any percentage increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount paid under the unemployment law to 50% of the annual increase in the consumer price increase. It also increases the amount of wage upon which unemployment compensation taxes are paid.