

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1360

S. P. 477

In Senate, March 18, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Conley of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Permit the Opportunity for Continuing Health Insurance.

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

24-A MRSA § 2809, sub-§ 3 is enacted to read:

3. During a strike, an employer shall neither cancel nor allow to lapse any policy of group health insurance issued pursuant to section 2804. Further, an employer shall inform insured members within a reasonable time following the start of a strike that, in order to receive continuing coverage, they must pay, as it falls due, any portion of the health insurance premium ordinarily paid by them. The employer shall also inform insured members of the procedure, which must not cause unreasonable hardship to the members, for paying their portion of the premium during the strike.

Insured members and those covered pursuant to subsection 1 may recover in a civil action against an employer for damages caused to them by the employer's failure to comply with this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is intended to permit members of a group health plan the opportunity to continue health insurance before coverage under the group plan is terminated. This is not now always the case where premium payments for the group plan are made by an employer and where the employer cancels the plan without notice to employees.