

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 496

6
7 H.P. 413

House of Representatives, February 1, 1983

8 Received by the Clerk of the House on February 1, 1983. Referred to the
9 Committee on Labor, and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

11 Presented by Representative Andrews of Portland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Adjust the Weekly Benefit
18 Amount for Dependents of Unemployment
19 Compensation Claimants.
20

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

23 26 MRSA §1191, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1975, c.
24 720, is further amended to read:

25 6. Supplemental weekly benefit for dependents.
26 An individual in total or partial unemployment and
27 otherwise eligible for benefits shall be paid for
28 each week of such that unemployment, in addition to
29 the amounts payable under subsections 2 and 3, the
30 sum of \$5 \$15 for each unemancipated child of such
31 that individual who in any part of the benefit year
32 and during any part of such that individual's period
33 of eligibility is, in fact, dependent upon and is
34 being wholly or mainly supported by such that indi-

1 vidual, and who is under the age of 18, or who is 18
2 years of age or over and incapable of earning wages
3 because of mental or physical incapacity, or who is a
4 full-time student as defined in Title 39, section 2,
5 subsection 4, paragraph C, or who is in his custody
6 pending the adjudication of a petition filed by such
7 that individual for the adoption of such that child
8 in a court of competent jurisdiction and for each
9 such child for whom he is under a decree or order
10 from a court of competent jurisdiction to contribute
11 to such that child's support and for whom no other
12 person is receiving allowances hereunder. ~~In no~~
13 ~~instance shall the dependency benefits as provided in~~
14 ~~this subsection be more than 50% of the individual's~~
15 ~~weekly benefit amount except that if such amount of~~
16 ~~dependency benefits includes a fractional part of a~~
17 ~~dollar, it shall be raised to the next highest~~
18 ~~dollar.~~

19 The commission shall prescribe regulations as to who
20 may receive a dependency allowance when both the hus-
21 band and wife are eligible to receive unemployment
22 compensation benefits.

23 No individual ~~shall~~ may be eligible to receive depen-
24 dency allowances as provided in this subsection for
25 any week during which his or her spouse is employed
26 full time provided that such that spouse is contrib-
27 uting some support to their dependent or dependents.
28 For purposes of the preceding sentence, "employed
29 full time" shall mean the receipt of any wages, earn-
30 ings, salary or other income equivalent to that
31 amount which would be received for a 40-hour work
32 week.

33 STATEMENT OF FACT

34 This section of law providing for a \$5 supple-
35 mental weekly benefit for dependents of unemployment
36 compensation claimants was enacted in 1975. This
37 amount has not increased since its original enactment
38 even though inflation has caused costs to consumers
39 to increase tremendously during that same period.
40 The present allowance is wholly inadequate to accom-
41 plish the purpose which it was originally enacted to
42 serve and should be increased to meet this important
43 need.

1 This bill increases the weekly amount payable for
2 each dependent to \$15. It also removes the maximum
3 limitation on dependency benefits.

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