

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document No. 613

S.P. 190 In Senate, February 7, 1983
Referred to the Committee on Labor, sent down for concurrence and
ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Pray of Penobscot.
Cosponsor: Senator Carpenter of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Require the Department of Labor
to Make Available to All Claimants for
Unemployment Insurance, the Complete
Set of All Department of Labor Rules
and Policies Governing the Determinations
of Eligibility and Payment of Benefits.

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

26 MRS A §1194, sub-§1, ¶A is enacted to read:

A. A comprehensive set of Department of Labor
rules and policies governing the determination of
eligibility and payment of benefits shall be
available in each local office where unemployment
claims are filed. It shall be easily accessible
to any member of the public and shall be indexed
in such a way as to facilitate its use by the
public.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The Department of Labor, Division of Employment
3 Security, currently makes approximately 50,000 bene-
4 fit determinations per year. On each determination,
5 the claimant is notified of the section of the statu-
6 te under which the determination has been made. In
7 addition to the statute itself, the department per-
8 sonnel rely on a body of rules and department poli-
9 cies developed internally, on such diverse topics as
10 when work is suitable, what circumstances constitute
11 nondisqualifying illness, etc. Although these rules
12 and policies are used to govern eligibility and bene-
13 fit payment, they are not accessible to claimants to
14 assist them in understanding their benefit determina-
15 tion and deciding whether or not to appeal. In fact,
16 they are not collected, indexed or otherwise avail-
17 able in a comprehensive manner to be used internally
18 to insure consistency in benefit determination
19 throughout the State. The bill provides that they
20 will be.

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