

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 875

H.P. 647 House of Representatives, March 23, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered
printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative PRIEST of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Representatives MICHAUD of East
Millinocket, CLARK of Millinocket and Senator USHER of
Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Increase the Family Allowance of
2 the Unemployment Compensation Law.
3

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

6 26 MRSA §1191, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1983, c.
7 13, §5, is further amended to read:

8 6. Supplemental weekly benefit for dependents.
9 An individual in total or partial unemployment and
10 otherwise eligible for benefits shall be paid for
11 each week of that unemployment, in addition to the
12 amounts payable under subsections 2 and 3, the sum of
13 \$5 \$20 for each unemancipated child of the individual
14 who in any part of the benefit year and during any
15 part of the individual's period of eligibility is, in
16 fact, dependent upon and is being wholly or mainly

1 supported by the individual, and who is under the age
2 of 18, or who is 18 years of age or over and incap-
3 able of earning wages because of mental or physical
4 incapacity, or who is a full-time student as defined
5 in Title 39, section 2, subsection 4, paragraph C, or
6 who is in his custody pending the adjudication of a
7 petition filed by the individual for the adoption of
8 the child in a court of competent jurisdiction and
9 for each such child for whom he is under a decree or
10 order from a court of competent jurisdiction to con-
11 tribute to that child's support and for whom no other
12 person is receiving allowances hereunder. In no in-
13 stance may the dependency benefits as provided in
14 this subsection be more than 50% of the individual's
15 weekly benefit amount.

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

20 No individual may be eligible to receive dependency
21 allowances as provided in this subsection for any
22 week during which his spouse is employed full time
23 provided that the spouse is contributing some support
24 to their dependent or dependents. For purposes of
25 this subsection, "employed full time" means the re-
26 ceipt of any wages, earnings, salary or other income
27 equivalent to that amount which would be received for
28 a 40-hour work week.

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 The unemployment law contains a family allowance,
31 recognizing the need for supporting children contin-
32 ues during periods of unemployment. This unemploy-
33 ment allowance is currently set at the rate of \$5 a
34 child a week or up to a maximum of 50% of the
35 individual's weekly benefit amount. This bill, rec-
36 ognizing inflation and making somewhat of the impact
37 of inflation since the family allowance was first en-
38 acted and the tremendous increase in the cost of sup-
39 porting children, has increased the dependency allow-
40 ance to a rate of \$20 a child a week.

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