

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2105

H.P. 1545 House of Representatives, January 21, 1988  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the  
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.  
Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered  
printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative RYDELL of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of Aroostook,  
Representatives JOSEPH of Waterville and RAND of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **AN ACT to Increase Work Incentive in the**  
2 **Unemployment Insurance Partial Benefit**  
3 **Structure.**  
4

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

7 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1191, sub-§3, as repealed and**  
8 **replaced by PL 1985, c. 737, §71, is repealed and the**

1 following enacted in its place:

2 3. Weekly benefit for partial unemployment. Each  
3 eligible individual who is partially unemployed in any  
4 week shall be paid, with respect to that week, a  
5 partial benefit in an amount equal to the weekly  
6 benefit amount less that part of the earnings, paid or  
7 payable to that individual with respect to the week  
8 which is in excess of the greater of 1/2 of the weekly  
9 benefit amount or \$10. Any amount received from the  
10 Federal Government by members of the National Guard  
11 and organized reserve, including base pay and  
12 allowances or any amounts received as a volunteer  
13 fireman or as elected members of the Legislature,  
14 shall not be considered wages for the purpose of this  
15 subsection.

16 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1043, sub-§17, ¶B, as amended**  
17 **by PL 1979, c. 515, §5, is further amended to read:**

18 B. An individual, including corporate officers,  
19 shall be deemed "partially unemployed" in any week  
20 of less than full-time work if his wages payable  
21 from any source for such week are not \$5 or more  
22 in excess of do not exceed 1 1/2 times the weekly  
23 benefit amount he would be entitled to receive if  
24 totally unemployed and eligible, except that  
25 remuneration payable or received as holiday pay  
26 shall not be deemed wages for the purpose of this  
27 subsection and except that any amounts received  
28 from the Federal Government by members of the  
29 National Guard and organized reserve, including  
30 base pay and allowances, or any amounts received  
31 as a volunteer fireman, or as an elected member of  
32 the Legislature, shall not be deemed wages for the  
33 purpose of this subsection.

34 STATEMENT OF FACT

35 Maine law presently provides unemployment  
36 insurance benefits to persons employed part-time, but  
37 in most cases those benefit amounts are reduced dollar  
38 for dollar, after a small disregard, by their wages.  
39 This discourages claimants from accepting part-time

1 work. Maine's partial benefit structure is presently  
2 among the least favorable in the nation with respect  
3 to providing work incentive.

4 This bill will benefit claimants by allowing them  
5 to keep more of their benefits when they accept  
6 part-time work. It will also benefit employers who  
7 are having difficulty recruiting part-time workers and  
8 reduce unemployment compensation payments by  
9 encouraging more unemployed workers to become  
10 part-time wage earners.

11

4275122287