

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 482, L.D. 676, Bill, "An Act to Allow Unemployment Compensation Benefits to be Payable to Individuals Who are Forced to Leave Employment to Protect Their Health and Safety"

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause the following:

'Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1043, sub-§7-B is enacted to read:

8-A. Domestic abuse. "Domestic abuse" means any of the following acts between any family or household members or sexual partners whether or not they have lived together:

A. Attempting to cause or causing bodily injury or offensive physical contact including sexual assaults;

B. Attempting to place or placing another in fear of bodily injury through any course of conduct including, but not limited to, threatening, harassing or tormenting behavior;

C. Compelling a person by force, threat of force or intimidation to engage in conduct from which the person has a right or privilege to abstain or to abstain from conduct in which the person has a right to engage;

D. Knowingly restricting substantially the movements of another person without that person's consent or other lawful authority by: removing that person from that person's residence, place of business or school; moving that person a substantial distance from the vicinity where that person was found; or confining that person for a substantial period either in the place where the restriction commenced or in a place to which that person has been moved;

2 E. Communicating to a person a threat to commit, or cause  
4 to be committed, a crime of violence dangerous to human life  
6 against the person to whom the communication is made or  
8 another, and the natural and probable consequence of the  
10 threat, whether or not that consequence in fact occurs, is  
12 to place the person to whom the threat is communicated, or  
14 the person against whom the threat is made, in reasonable  
16 fear that the crime will be committed; or

18 F. Repeatedly intimidating or harassing a person with the  
20 intention of causing fear or intimidation.'

22 Further amend the bill in the first line after the enacting  
24 clause (page 1, line 3 in L.D.) by inserting at the beginning the  
26 following: 'Sec.2.'

28 Further amend the bill in paragraph A in subparagraph (4) in  
30 the 2nd line (page 1, line 35 in L.D.) by striking out the  
32 following: "claimant's health and safety" and inserting in its  
34 place the following: 'claimant from domestic abuse'

36 Further amend the bill by inserting before the statement of  
38 fact the following:

#### 38 'FISCAL NOTE

40 This bill expands the number of eligible individuals who may  
42 be paid unemployment benefits when they have voluntarily left  
44 employment. Since only a small number of individuals would  
become eligible, any administrative costs could be absorbed  
within current budgeted resources of the Department of Labor,  
Bureau of Employment Security. The State, as an employer, could  
also incur additional expenses in the form of unemployment  
compensation payments, the amount of which can not be determined  
at this time.'

#### 44 STATEMENT OF FACT

46 This amendment clarifies the original bill by allowing the  
48 payment of unemployment benefits to individuals who are forced to  
50 leave employment due to domestic abuse. The amendment adds a  
52 definition of domestic abuse to the unemployment compensation  
54 law. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.