

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
116TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 625, L.D. 1744, Bill, "An Act to Ensure Continued Federal Support for Unemployed Workers during Periods of High Unemployment"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting in its place the following:

**Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1191, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 22, §2, is further amended to read:

**2. Weekly benefit amount for total unemployment.** Each eligible individual establishing a benefit year on and after October 1, 1983, who is totally unemployed in any week must be paid with respect to that week, benefits equal to 1/22 of the wages, rounded to the nearest lower full dollar amount, paid to that individual in the high quarter of the base period, but not less than \$12. The maximum weekly benefit amount for claimants requesting insured status determination beginning October 1, 1983, and thereafter from June 1st of a calendar year to May 31st of the next calendar year may not exceed 52% of the annual average weekly wage, rounded to the nearest lower full dollar amount, paid in the calendar year preceding June 1st of that calendar year. No increase in the maximum weekly benefit amount may occur for the period from June 1, 1992 to ~~May-31~~ October 28, 1995. For claimants requesting insured status determination on or after April 1, 1993 and before January 1, 1995, the weekly benefit amount must be the amount determined by this subsection minus \$6.

**Sec. 2. Alternative trigger.** In addition to the conditions provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1195, there is a state "on" indicator for a week in the period from the effective date of this Act to April 30, 1994, if:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

2           A.    The average rate of seasonally adjusted total  
4           unemployment in this State, as determined by the United  
6           States Secretary of Labor, for the period consisting of the  
          most recent 3 months for which data for all states are  
          published before the close of that week equals or exceeds  
          6.5%; and

8  
9           B.    The average rate of seasonally adjusted total  
10           unemployment in this State, as determined by the United  
12           States Secretary of Labor, for the 3-month period referred  
14           to in paragraph A equals or exceeds 110% of the average rate  
          for either or both of the corresponding 3-month periods  
          ending in the 2 preceding calendar years.

16           **Sec. 3. Total extended benefit amount.** For the period from the  
18           effective date of this Act to April 30, 1994, and effective with  
20           respect to weeks beginning in a high unemployment period, the  
          total extended benefit amount payable to any eligible individual  
          with respect to the applicable benefit year is the lesser of the  
          following amounts:

22           A.    Eighty percent of the total amount of regular benefits  
24           that were payable to the individual under the Maine Revised  
26           Statutes, Title 26, chapter 13 in the applicable benefit  
          year;

28           B.    Twenty times the weekly benefit amount that was payable  
30           to the individual under Title 26, chapter 13 for a week of  
          total unemployment in the applicable benefit year; or

32           C.    Forty-six times the weekly benefit amount that was  
34           payable to the individual under Title 26, chapter 13 for a  
36           week of total unemployment in the applicable benefit year,  
38           reduced by the total amount of regular benefits that were  
          paid, or deemed paid, to the individual under Title 26,  
          chapter 13 with respect to the benefit year.

40           For purposes of this section, the term "high unemployment  
42           period" means any period during which an extended benefit period  
          would be in effect if section 2 of this Act were applied with  
          "8%" substituted for "6.5%."

44           **Sec. 4. Expenditures in excess of allocations.** Expenditures  
46           required by this Act of funds other than the General Fund or the  
48           Highway Fund are authorized to exceed legislative allocations in  
50           fiscal year 1993-94. Appropriate adjustments to basic work  
          programs facilitating these expenditures in excess of allocations  
          must be recommended by the State Budget Officer and approved by  
          the Governor.



1994. Under the provisions of this bill, approximately  
2 \$2,500,000 of the overall costs, or 50%, will be borne by the  
Unemployment Trust Fund balance and the remaining \$2,500,000 will  
4 be covered by limitations on benefit payments.

6 Extending unemployment benefits will increase the State's  
overall unemployment costs by approximately \$81,000 in fiscal  
8 year 1993-94. In fiscal year 1993-94, a General Fund  
appropriation of \$38,394 and a Highway Fund allocation of \$13,608  
10 will be required for the additional unemployment costs. The  
remaining costs of \$28,998 will be shared by accounts in other  
12 funds, which may require increased allotments.'

14  
16 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

18 This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing  
Committee on Labor. The amendment, like the original bill,  
20 implements the statutory language necessary for the State to use  
the optional extended benefit triggering method allowed by  
22 federal law. The amendment restricts the applicability of the  
new triggering method to ensure that only one 13-week period of  
extended benefits will be provided. The amendment also extends  
24 the freeze on the maximum weekly benefit amount from May 31, 1995  
to October 28, 1995, a date calculated to ensure that 50% of the  
26 State's cost of this program comes from the Unemployment Trust  
Fund and 50% of the cost is borne by limiting benefit payments.  
28 This amendment also removes from the bill the 1/10 of 1%  
reduction in the employer surcharge and adds a fiscal note.