

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "^B" 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 November 25, 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
8 most recent 3 months for which data for all states are
 published before the close of that week equals or exceeds
 6.5%; and

10 B. The average rate of seasonally adjusted total
12 unemployment in this State, as determined by the United
14 States Secretary of Labor, for the 3-month period referred
 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
22 total extended benefit amount payable to any eligible individual
 with respect to the applicable benefit year is the lesser of the
 following amounts:

24 A. Eighty percent of the total amount of regular benefits
26 that were payable to the individual under the Maine Revised
 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.

