

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 630

H.P. 459

House of Representatives, January 30, 1997

An Act to Create a Toll-free Number for Regional Unemployment Offices.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative TUTTLE of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot and
Representatives: BOLDUC of Auburn, CLARK of Millinocket, GOODWIN of Pembroke,
KONTOS of Windham, LEMAIRE of Lewiston, PAUL of Sanford, SAMSON of Jay, SAXL
of Portland.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1082, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. G, §11, is further amended to read:

1. Powers and duties of the commissioner. Except as otherwise provided, it is the duty of the Commissioner of Labor to administer this chapter, through an organization to be known as the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation. The commissioner may employ persons, make expenditures, require reports, make investigations and take other actions the commissioner determines necessary or suitable to that end. The commissioner is responsible and possesses the necessary authority for the operation and management of the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation. The commissioner shall determine methods of operational procedures in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner may adopt rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, to achieve this purpose, except rules pertaining to unemployment insurance as provided in subsection 2. The commissioner may adopt rules with respect to a self-employment assistance program as provided in section 1197. The commissioner shall determine methods of operational procedures in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and by the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375. The commissioner shall make recommendations for amendments to this chapter that the commissioner determines proper. When the commissioner believes that a change in contribution or benefit rates is necessary to protect the solvency of the fund, the commissioner shall promptly inform the Governor and the Legislature and make recommendations with respect to the change in rates. The commissioner shall establish a toll-free telephone number to connect claimants and employers to the appropriate local unemployment office.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor to set up a toll-free telephone number so that individuals and employers may transact business with the appropriate unemployment office without having to make a long-distance telephone call.