

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: April 1, 1998

(Filing No. S-693)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "B" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 1604, L.D. 2230, Bill, "An Act to Implement the Majority Report Recommendations of the Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System"

Amend the amendment by striking out all of section 1 and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1191, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1997, c. 380, §1, is further amended to read:

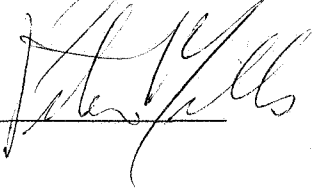
2. Weekly benefit amount for total unemployment. Each eligible individual establishing a benefit year on or after October 1, 1983 who is totally unemployed in any week must be paid with respect to that week benefits equal to 1/22 of the average of the wages, rounded to the nearest lower full dollar amount, paid to that individual in the ~~high-quarter~~ 2 highest quarters 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%~~ 50.5% 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 October 28, 1995. For the periods from October 29, 1995 to May 31, 1997 and from September 28, 1997 to ~~September 26, 1998~~ December 31, 1998, the maximum weekly benefit amount is limited to 94% of the amount calculated previously in this subsection, rounded to the nearest lower full dollar amount. For claimants requesting insured status determination on or after

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April 1, 1993 and before January 1, 1995, the weekly benefit amount must be the amount determined by this subsection minus \$6. For claimants requesting insured status determination on or after April 1, 1995 and before January 1, 1999, the weekly benefit amount must be the amount determined by this subsection minus \$3.'

SUMMARY

This amendment eliminates the extension of the \$3 reduction in all benefit amounts, so that the reduction will sunset at the end of 1998, as provided in existing law. The amendment extends the existing 6% reduction in maximum benefits through December 31, 1998. Under current law that reduction will sunset on September 25, 1998. The amendment caps maximum benefit amounts at 50.5% and states that benefit amounts are equal to 1/22 of the average of the claimant's wages in the 2 quarters of the base period in which the claimant earned the highest wages.

SPONSORED BY: 
(Senator MILLS)

COUNTY: Somerset