

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 83

H.P. 92

House of Representatives, January 21, 2003

An Act To Expand Unemployment Benefits

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CLARK of Millinocket.
Cosponsored by Senator EDMONDS of Cumberland, Senator STANLEY of Penobscot and
Representatives: CARR of Lincoln, DUPREY of Medway, GOODWIN of Pembroke, SMITH
of Van Buren, USHER of Westbrook, WATSON of Bath, Senators: BRYANT of Oxford,
HATCH of Somerset.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1193, sub-§1, ¶A**, as repealed and replaced by
5 PL 1991, c. 560, §2, is amended to read:

6 A. For the week in which the claimant left regular
7 employment voluntarily without good cause attributable to
8 that employment. The disqualification continues until the
9 claimant has earned 4 times the claimant's weekly benefit
10 amount in employment by an employer. A claimant may not be
11 disqualified under this paragraph if:

12 (1) The leaving was caused by the illness or
13 disability of the claimant or an immediate family
14 member and the claimant took all reasonable precautions
15 to protect the claimant's employment status by promptly
16 notifying the employer of the reasons for the absence
17 and by promptly requesting reemployment when again able
18 to resume employment;

19 (2) The leaving was necessary to accompany, follow or
20 join the claimant's spouse in a new place of residence
21 and the claimant can clearly show within 14 days of
22 arrival at the new place of residence an attachment to
23 the new labor market, and the claimant is in all
24 respects able, available and actively seeking suitable
25 work;

26 (3) The leaving was in good faith in order to accept
27 new employment on a permanent full-time basis and the
28 new employment did not materialize for reasons
29 attributable to the new employing unit; or

30 (4) The leaving was necessary to protect the claimant
31 from domestic abuse and the claimant made all
32 reasonable efforts to preserve the employment; or

33 (5) The claimant's employer announced in writing to
34 employees that it planned to reduce the work force
35 through a layoff or reduction in force and that
36 employees may offer to be among those included in the
37 layoff or reduction in force, at which time the
38 claimant offered to be one of the employees included in
39 the layoff or reduction in force and the claimant's
40 employer accepted the claimant's offer, thereby ending
41 the employment relationship.

SUMMARY

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4 This bill provides that a person is not disqualified from
receiving unemployment compensation benefits if the person agrees
to be laid off when a layoff or reduction in force is announced
6 by the employer and the employer asks for volunteers.