

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 116

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DATE: 5-15-03

(Filing No. S-168)

LABOR

Reported by: *Majority*

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
121ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 39, L.D. 116, Bill, "An Act To Require a Toll-free Telephone Number To Be Maintained by the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation To Provide Access to a Toll-free Telephone Number'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, individuals in need of assistance from the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation may be deterred from seeking that assistance by prohibitive costs of toll telephone calls; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

11/13/02

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Sec. 1. Toll-free telephone line. Resolved: That the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation shall provide a toll-free telephone line to provide information regarding filing for, or receipt of, unemployment benefits and to enable persons to submit applications to the bureau for those benefits. This requirement applies only if, and to the extent that, funds are allocated by law from distributions made to the State under section 903(d) of the federal Social Security Act on March 13, 2002, the so-called Reed Act Distribution of 2002; and be it further.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: Allocates funds for the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation to provide access to a toll-free telephone line to provide information and to file for unemployment benefits.

Federal Expenditures Fund	2003-04	2004-05
All Other	\$413,702	\$413,702
Federal Expenditures Fund Total	\$413,702	\$413,702

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve. It requires the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation to provide a toll-free telephone line if, and to the extent that, funds are allocated for that purpose from the Reed Act Distribution of 2002. The line would allow persons to obtain information about unemployment benefits and to file for benefits. The amendment also adds an allocation section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

121st Maine Legislature
Office of Fiscal and Program Review



LD 116

An Act To Require a Toll-free Telephone Number To Be Maintained by
the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation

LR 0027(02)

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A-168*

Committee: Labor

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	2003-04	2004-05	Projections 2005-06	Projections 2006-07
Appropriations/Allocations				
Federal Expenditures Fund	\$413,702	\$413,702	\$413,702	\$413,702

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes Federal Expenditures Funds allocations of \$413,702 in fiscal year 2003-04 and \$413,702 in fiscal year 2004-05 for the Employment Security Services program within the Department of Labor for the costs associated with providing access to a toll-free telephone line to provide information and to submit applications for unemployment benefits. This legislation is contingent upon the Reed Act Distribution Funds of 2002 being allocated for this purpose.