

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 476

H.P. 368

House of Representatives, February 4, 2003

An Act To Protect Maine Families When Workplace Fatalities Occur

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPLESSIE of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator EDMONDS of Cumberland and
Representatives: HATCH of Skowhegan, KETTERER of Madison, PATRICK of Rumford,
SIMPSON of Auburn, SMITH of Van Buren, WATSON of Bath, Senators: BRYANT of
Oxford, HATCH of Somerset.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 39-A MRSA §215, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

6 **3. Continued health insurance coverage.** In addition to any
8 other benefits required by this Act, if an employee dies as a
10 result of a compensable injury, the employer shall continue to
12 provide health insurance coverage to the family of the deceased
14 employee, at the employer's expense, for up to 6 months following
16 the employee's death. The employer is not obligated to provide
18 or pay for such coverage if:

20 A. Family members were not covered by a health insurance
22 policy or plan sponsored by the employer before the
24 employee's death; or

B. Family members decline coverage at any time during the 6
 months following the employee's death. Coverage may be
 declined only by a letter mailed to the employer and signed
 by persons entitled to coverage under this subsection.

SUMMARY

 This bill requires an employer to continue to provide health insurance coverage to the family of an employee who dies as a result of a workplace injury. The employer is required to pay 100% of the cost of the coverage for up to 6 months after the employee's death.