



## **122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

**Legislative Document** 

No. 309

H.P. 233

House of Representatives, January 19, 2005

An Act To Remove the Sunset on Part-time Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204. Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

> Millicent M. Mac Failand MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND

Clerk

Presented by Representative SMITH of Van Buren. Cosponsored by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland and Representatives: CLARK of Millinocket, HUTTON of Bowdoinham, JACKSON of Fort Kent, NORTON of Bangor, PATRICK of Rumford, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senators: President EDMONDS of Cumberland, NUTTING of Androscoggin.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1192. sub-§3. ¶A. as enacted by PL 2003, c. 458, §1, is amended to read:

A. Notwithstanding this subsection, beginning January 1, 2004, an individual who is not available for full-time work as required in this subsection is not disqualified from receiving benefits if:

(1) The individual worked less than full time for a
majority of the weeks during that individual's base period and the individual is able and available for and
14 actively seeking part-time work for at least the number of hours in a week comparable to those customarily
16 worked in part-time employment during that individual's base period; or

(2) The individual worked full time for a majority of 20 the weeks during that individual's base period, but is able and available for and actively seeking only 22 part-time work because of the illness or disability of an immediate family member or because of limitations 24 necessarv for the safety or protection of the individual or individual's immediate family member.

This-paragraph-does-not-apply-to-a-person-who-applies-fer28benefits-after-September-30,-2005.--This-paragraph-continues28to-apply-to-a-person-who-applies-for-benefits-on-or-before30September-30,-2005-until-that-person-has-exhausted-benefits30payable-under-that-applieation.

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## SUMMARY

36 This bill removes the sunset expansion on the of unemployment benefit eligibility to workers who have a primary history of part-time work, who are laid off and are only able and 38 available for comparable part-time work. The language expanding 40 those benefits took effect on January 1, 2004 and is scheduled to sunset on September 30, 2005 unless legislation is passed to make 42 the program permanent.