

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 1832

H.P. 1279

House of Representatives, April 5, 2007

An Act To Amend the Unemployment Compensation Laws

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUPREY of Hampden.
Cosponsored by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland and
Representatives: BURNS of Berwick, CLARK of Millinocket, DRISCOLL of Westbrook,
HASKELL of Portland, ROBINSON of Raymond, THOMAS of Ripley, TUTTLE of Sanford,
Senator: DOW of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1191, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

3 **11. Bonus for quickly finding work.** An individual who is receiving benefits
4 pursuant to this section and who finds work no later than 3 weeks after making an initial
5 claim for benefits must receive a bonus equal to 2 weeks of benefits, payable as a lump
6 sum. An individual who is receiving benefits pursuant to this section and who finds work
7 no later than 6 weeks after making an initial claim for benefits must receive a bonus equal
8 to one week of benefits. A bonus paid pursuant to this subsection counts toward the limit
9 on the maximum amount of benefits established in subsection 4.

10 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 454, §1, is further
11 amended to read:

12 **3. Is able and available for work.** The individual is able to work and is available
13 for full-time work at the individual's usual or customary trade, occupation, profession or
14 business or in such other trade, occupation, profession or business for which the
15 individual's prior training or experience shows the individual to be fitted or qualified; and
16 in addition to having complied with subsection 2 is actively seeking work in accordance
17 with the regulations of the commission and has provided proof of having contacted a
18 minimum of 5 employers in that week; provided that no ineligibility may be found solely
19 because the claimant is unable to accept employment on a shift, the greater part of which
20 falls between the hours of midnight to 5 a.m., and is unavailable for that employment
21 because of parental obligation, the need to care for an immediate family member; or the
22 unavailability of a personal care attendant required to assist the unemployed individual
23 who is a handicapped person; and provided that an unemployed individual who is neither
24 able nor available for work due to good cause as determined by the deputy is eligible to
25 receive prorated benefits for that portion of the week during which the individual was
26 able and available.

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

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

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

40 This paragraph does not apply to a person who applies for benefits after September
41 30, 2008. This paragraph continues to apply to a person who applies for benefits on

1 or before September 30, 2008 until that person has exhausted benefits payable under
2 that application.

3

SUMMARY

4 This bill provides that an individual who is receiving unemployment benefits and
5 who finds work no later than 3 weeks after making an initial claim for benefits must
6 receive a bonus equal to 2 weeks of benefits, payable as a lump sum. An individual who
7 is receiving benefits and who finds work no later than 6 weeks after making an initial
8 claim for benefits must receive a bonus equal to one week of benefits.

9 The bill requires that an individual provide proof of having contacted a minimum of 5
10 employers in a week in order to be eligible to receive unemployment compensation for
11 that week.