



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

H.P. 404

House of Representatives, February 15, 2011

An Act To Employ the Unemployed

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

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No. 521

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST Clerk

Presented by Representative BLODGETT of Augusta. Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: CUSHING of Hampden, GILBERT of Jay, GOODE of Bangor, HARVELL of Farmington, HERBIG of Belfast, RUSSELL of Portland, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senator: RECTOR of Knox.

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- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- 3 **Whereas,** the unemployment rate in the State has been at a historically high rate for 4 a significant period of time; and
- 5 **Whereas,** it is necessary to provide incentives to businesses to hire people who have 6 been unemployed for at least 6 months; 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,

- 11 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- 12 Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6753, sub-§14 is enacted to read:
- 13 <u>14. Unemployed person.</u> "Unemployed person" means a person who has not been
 employed at all for at least 6 months.
- 15 Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6754-A is enacted to read:

16 §6754-A. Reimbursement for hiring unemployed persons

17 An employer that hires an unemployed person as a qualified employee is entitled to reimbursement of state income tax withheld for that employee during the first 6 months 18 19 that the qualified employee is employed. Reimbursement to employers must be administered in the same manner and according to the same timetable as under applicable 20 21 provisions of section 6758. An employee for whom reimbursement is received under this 22 section may not also count as a qualified employee under section 6754 during the period for which reimbursement is made under this section. Funding for the Governor's Training 23 Initiative Program under Title 26, section 2031 must be reduced by the amount of 24 25 reimbursement paid under this section.

- 26 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this 27 legislation takes effect when approved.
- 28 SUMMARY
 29 This bill permits an employer who hires as an employee a person who has not been
 30 employed for 6 months to receive reimbursement for the amount of state income tax
 31 withheld for that employee for the first 6 months of employment.