

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1033

H.P. 728

House of Representatives, March 14, 2013

An Act To Help the Unemployed Find Work

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PARRY of Arundel.
Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and
Representatives: LOCKMAN of Amherst, SANDERSON of Chelsea, SIROCKI of
Scarborough, VOLK of Scarborough, Senator: MASON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 645, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Has registered for work.** The individual has registered for work at, and continued
5 to report at, an employment office in accordance with rules the commission adopts,
6 except that the commission may, by rule, waive or alter either or both of the requirements
7 of this subsection as to individuals attached to regular jobs and as to such other types of
8 cases or situations with respect to which the commission finds that compliance with the
9 requirements would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the purposes of this
10 chapter. A rule under this subsection may not conflict with section 1191, subsection 1.

11 The individual must actively seek work each week in which a claim for benefits is filed
12 unless the individual is participating in approved training under subsection 6 or work
13 search has been waived in accordance with rules adopted by the commission and provide
14 evidence of work search efforts in a manner and form as prescribed by the commission.
15 Failure to provide required work search documentation results in a denial of benefits in
16 accordance with section 1194, subsection 2 for the week or weeks for which no
17 documentation was provided unless the commission determines there is good cause for
18 the individual's failure to comply with this requirement;.

19 In addition to the other requirements of this section, after receiving 13 times the
20 individual's weekly benefit amount in a benefit year the individual must also register to
21 work with a temporary employment agency. The commission may, by rule, waive or
22 alter this requirement as necessary to accommodate hardship associated with this
23 requirement for individuals not residing in reasonable proximity to a temporary
24 employment agency. For purposes of this subsection, "temporary employment agency"
25 means an employer that provides opportunities for individuals to perform work of a
26 temporary nature for other employers;

27 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1194, sub-§14** is enacted to read:

28 **14. Gaps in benefits.** A claimant who has received benefits and subsequently
29 discontinued filing for benefits for a period of time may initiate a new claim for benefits
30 within the same benefit year. The new claim is effective for both the week in which the
31 claimant is initiating the new claim and the prior week.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill creates a requirement that in order for an individual to maintain eligibility
34 for unemployment benefits after receiving 13 times the individual's weekly benefit
35 amount in a benefit year, the individual must register for temporary employment through
36 a temporary employment agency. This bill also provides that a new claim for
37 unemployment benefits for a claimant who has stopped filing for benefits and then begins
38 again within the same benefit year is effective for both the week in which the claimant
39 files and the prior week.