

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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2 Date: 3/3/14

(Filing No. S-407)

3 LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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5 STATE OF MAINE

6 SENATE

7 126TH LEGISLATURE

8 SECOND REGULAR SESSION

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 663, L.D. 1668, Bill, "An Act To
10 Expedite Training Waiver Decisions for Unemployment Claimants by Transferring
11 Original Jurisdiction from the Unemployment Insurance Commission to the Bureau of
12 Unemployment Compensation"

13 Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the
14 following:

15 **'Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
16 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

17 **Whereas,** the number of applications for training waivers to the Maine
18 Unemployment Insurance Commission has increased dramatically in 2013 because the
19 only path for many citizens to receive their unemployment benefits requires their
20 participation in commission-approved training; and

21 **Whereas,** the commission does not possess adequate staff to efficiently process both
22 the training waiver case load and its normal case load despite the use of mechanisms such
23 as overtime; and

24 **Whereas,** training waiver cases are inherently time-sensitive because claimants rely
25 upon their unemployment benefits to pay for necessities of daily living, such as food,
26 medicine and shelter, and failure to quickly process training waiver cases can result in
27 citizens' having inadequate funds for these critical items; and

28 **Whereas,** the backlog of training waiver cases has increased substantially since
29 submission of this legislation; and

30 **Whereas,** if this legislation is not enacted as an emergency, the backlog of training
31 waiver cases will increase and adversely affect even more unemployment claimants; and

32 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
33 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
34 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
35 therefore,'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 6 in the 2nd and 3rd lines from the end
2 (page 1, lines 14 and 15 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "The commission has
3 appellate jurisdiction over these cases on appeal from the deputy."

4 Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 6-C in the first paragraph in the last 2 lines
5 (page 1, lines 25 and 26 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "The commission has
6 appellate jurisdiction over these cases on appeal from the deputy."

7 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

8 **'Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
9 legislation takes effect when approved.'

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment changes the bill by not extending appellate jurisdiction to the Maine
12 Unemployment Insurance Commission. Both original and appellate jurisdiction for
13 approval of training not approved by the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 will
14 be within the Department of Labor.

15 This amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

16 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

17 **(See attached)**



Approved: 02/19/14 *MCC*

126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1668

LR 2557(02)

An Act To Expedite Training Waiver Decisions for Unemployment Claimants by Transferring Original Jurisdiction from the Unemployment Insurance Commission to the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-407)
Committee: Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - Federal Expenditures Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation within the Department of Labor associated with assuming jurisdiction for making approved training determinations for certain unemployment claimants can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.