

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1316

S.P. 534

In Senate, March 23, 2023

**An Act to Require Auditing for Work Search Requirements of
Claimants of Unemployment Compensation**

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, GUERIN of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington, POULIOT of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1200** is enacted to read:

3 **§1200. Reporting and audit**

4 **1. Reporting.** An individual shall report the individual's required work search and
5 other eligibility activities under section 1192 to the commissioner no later than 5 p.m. on
6 the Friday of the week in which the activities were completed. The reporting may be
7 accomplished on a form under subsection 2 online, in writing or at any office operated by
8 the Department of Labor or by agreement with an organization providing unemployment
9 or reemployment services to individuals.

10 **2. Form requirements.** A reporting form under subsection 1 must contain the
11 following information regarding the individual:

12 A. The actions taken by the individual to comply with section 1192;

13 B. The employer, employment office, program or agency the individual interacted with
14 or participated in with respect to actions taken under paragraph A;

15 C. The date of every action taken under paragraph A; and

16 D. A point of contact to verify each action taken under paragraph A.

17 **3. Verification by commissioner.** Prior to paying benefits to an individual under this
18 chapter, the commissioner shall verify that the individual completed the required weekly
19 report of eligibility activities under subsection 1. Each week the commissioner shall select
20 a sample of at least 1/3 of work search reports received for that week for verification of the
21 reported information under subsection 2.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires individuals receiving unemployment compensation to report weekly
24 the required work search and other activities the individuals performed and requires the
25 Commissioner of Labor to select and audit 1/3 of all reports received each week to verify
26 the statements made in the reports.