

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED BY THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
December 1, 1982 to June 24, 1983  
Chapters 453-End

AND AT THE

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
September 6, 1983 to September 7, 1983  
Chapters 583-588

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES  
ANNOTATED, TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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J.S. McCarthy Co., Inc.  
Augusta, Maine  
1983

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**PRIVATE AND  
SPECIAL LAWS**

OF THE

**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
and  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
of the  
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
1983

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Sec. 3. Additional funds. Any additional funds that might become available due to implementation of the block grants and the possible overlapping of other grants shall be carried forward for future allocation by the Legislature or may be used to offset any possible reductions in the above mentioned block grants.

Sec. 4. Adjustments to allocations. Allocations may be increased or adjusted by the State Budget Officer with the approval of the Governor to specifically cover those adjustments determined to be necessary under any salary plan approved by the Legislature and those reclassifications/range changes which have been approved by the Department of Personnel and submitted for legislative review prior to the effective date of this Act.

Sec. 5. Encumbered balances at year end. At the end of each fiscal year, all encumbered balances shall not be carried more than once.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective June 28, 1983.

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## CHAPTER 46

H.P. 1174 - L.D. 1561

AN ACT to Protect the Integrity of the  
Unemployment Compensation Fund.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Maine's Unemployment Compensation Fund is presently in serious financial trouble; and

Whereas, the Federal Government has placed interest charges and other stringent standards on state borrowing to discourage reliance on federal loans to rescue state unemployment funds; and

Whereas, the Department of Labor's long-range projections indicate that by fiscal year 1987-88 the fund may again be in difficult enough circumstances to require another large federal loan of the magnitude of the debt incurred in the 1974-75 recession, which has still not been fully repaid; and

Whereas, unemployment benefits are of critical importance to the Maine workers and the health of the unemployment system directly affects the state's economy; and

Whereas, the seriousness and persistence of these concerns make it vitally important to deal with this problem directly and comprehensively; 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,

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

**Sec. 1. Commission established.** There is created an Unemployment Compensation Fund Study Commission for the purpose of studying the fiscal integrity of the Unemployment Compensation Fund.

**Sec. 2. Staff and assistance.** The Department of Labor shall provide research, clerical and computer assistance to the commission and give unrestricted access to its records, rules, policies and data, except for those items which the department is legally obligated to keep confidential. The Office of Legislative Assistants shall provide further assistance to the commission.

**Sec. 3. Membership.** The commission shall have 9 members, as follows:

1. Three members of the Legislature, including one Senator and 2 Representatives;
2. Two members representing organized labor;
3. Two members representing the business community;
4. One member familiar with administration of the Unemployment Compensation Fund; and
5. One member representing the general public.

**Sec. 4. Appointment.** The members of the commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.

**Sec. 5. Duties.** The commission shall inquire into the fiscal integrity of the Unemployment Compensation Fund, including, but not limited to, the following areas of inquiry:

1. The financial condition of the fund from both short-term and long-range perspectives in order to adequately fund unemployment benefits and avoid the need to borrow money from the Federal Government;

2. The amount and type of employer contributions, the standards used in determining who will receive benefits and the method used to collect them;

3. The amount and type of employee unemployment benefits, the standards used in determining who will receive benefits and the method of payment;

4. Possible changes to the seasonal unemployment provisions of the law;

5. The efficiency of program operations, adequacy of staffing and improvements in utilization of resources that are possible while remaining in compliance with federal law; and

6. Methods used successfully in other states' unemployment programs that could improve this state's system.

Sec. 6. Reports. The commission shall present its findings, together with any suggested legislation, to the Second Regular Session of the 111th Legislature.

Sec. 7. Appropriation. The members shall serve without pay, but the following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to reimburse members for reasonable and necessary travel and other expenses and to cover the per diem expenses of the Legislators. Any unexpended balance shall not lapse, but may remain a continuing carrying account until the purpose of this Act has been accomplished.

1983-84

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND  
STUDY COMMISSION

All Other      \$2,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective June 30, 1983.

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