



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1020

H.P. 758

House of Representatives, March 10, 2021

**An Act To Promote the Integrity of the Unemployment Insurance
Program**

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

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRADSTREET of Vassalboro.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1086** is enacted to read:

3 **§1086. Verification of eligibility of benefits recipients**

4 **1. Verification of eligibility of benefits recipients.** The commissioner shall on a
5 weekly basis review the rolls of recipients receiving unemployment benefits to verify
6 eligibility. In performing the verification review required under this section, the
7 commissioner shall:

8 A. Utilize an integrity data hub administered by a nationally recognized national
9 association of state workforce agencies;

10 B. Review lists of individuals incarcerated in detention and correctional facilities as
11 defined in Title 34-A, section 1001, subsection 6, and pursuant to Title 34-A, sections
12 1208 and 1208-A; and

13 C. Check new hires records against the National Directory of New Hires created by the
14 United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children
15 and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement or successor federal directory.

16 **2. Data sharing.** The commissioner may enter into a memorandum of understanding
17 with any federal, state, county or municipal government, department or agency to obtain
18 information required to be reviewed or collected under this section.

19 **3. Action on review results.** If the commissioner determines through the verification
20 review required under subsection 1 that information exists indicating a change of
21 circumstances affecting the eligibility of a recipient of unemployment benefits, the
22 commissioner shall review that recipient's eligibility.

23 **4. Rules.** The commissioner may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section.
24 Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter
25 375, subchapter 2-A.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill requires the Commissioner of Labor to weekly review the rolls of recipients
28 receiving unemployment benefits with reference to a federal national directory of new hires
29 and to review lists of incarcerated individuals in county and state custody to determine if
30 there is a change of circumstances affecting the eligibility of a recipient of unemployment
31 benefits.