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Date: (Filing No. S-)

LABOR AND HOUSING

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

131ST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 111, L.D. 245, “An Act to Require a Person Receiving Unemployment Benefits to Attend Scheduled Interviews to Fulfill the Work Search Requirement”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1192, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 456, §18, is further amended to read:

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

The individual must actively seek work each week in which a claim for benefits is filed unless the individual is participating in approved training under subsection 6 or work search has been waived in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner and provide evidence of work search efforts in a manner and form as prescribed by the Department of Labor. The individual must appear at an interview scheduled with reasonable notice in writing by mail or electronically by a prospective employer. Failure to provide required work search documentation or to appear at an interview scheduled with reasonable notice in writing by mail or electronically by a prospective employer results in a denial of benefits in accordance with section 1194, subsection 2 for the week or weeks for which no documentation was provided or for which the individual failed to appear at a scheduled interview unless the department determines there is good cause for the individual's failure to comply with this requirement or the totality of the work search activities performed otherwise satisfies the work search requirement.'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
2 number to read consecutively.

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment is the minority report. It replaces the bill. This amendment specifies
5 that if an individual fails to appear at an interview scheduled with reasonable notice in
6 writing by mail or electronically by a prospective employer, that individual may be denied
7 benefits for the week in which that individual failed to appear for that interview unless the
8 department determines there is good cause for the individual's failure to comply or that the
9 totality of the work search activities performed otherwise satisfies the work search
10 requirements.

11 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
12 **(See attached)**