



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1316

LR 1648(01)

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

### Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Sen. Stewart of Aroostook

Committee: Labor and Housing

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$3,719,203	\$5,173,252	\$5,335,274	\$5,503,129
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$3,719,203	\$5,173,252	\$5,335,274	\$5,503,129

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bills requires the Department of Labor to select and audit one-third of all work search and other eligible activities reported by individuals receiving unemployment compensation and submitted to the department on a weekly basis. According to the department, it currently conducts "work search" audits on 3% of weekly claims. Had this provision been in place in 2022, the number of audits required to be performed would have increased by 76,744.

The Department of Labor has indicated that it will require ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$3,719,203 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$5,173,252 in fiscal year 2024-25 for 40 Unemployment Compensation Eligibility Agent positions, 6 Hearing Examiner positions, 5 Unemployment Compensation Team Leader positions, one Senior Hearing Examiner position, one Unemployment Compensation Regional Manager position and related All Other costs to support the increase in the number of weekly audits of work search reports. The fiscal note assumes that the positions would be begin on October 1, 2023.