



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 425

S.P. 173

In Senate, February 11, 2021

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor To Establish a State  
Unemployment Program for Self-employed Workers and  
Independent Contractors**

(EMERGENCY)

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Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 9, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 CURRY of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representative: CUDDY of Winterport.

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

**Whereas**, this legislation must take effect before the end of the 90-day period so that the Department of Labor may adopt rules to implement this resolve; 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

**Sec. 1. Unemployment program for self-employed workers and independent contractors. Resolved:** That the Department of Labor shall establish a state unemployment program for workers not covered by unemployment compensation in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, chapter 13. The program must cover self-employed workers and independent contractors as defined in Title 26, section 1043, subsection 11, paragraph E. The program must include benefits for self-employed workers and independent contractors that are equal to those benefits received by employees eligible for unemployment compensation under Title 26, chapter 13.

**Sec. 2. Funding. Resolved:** That the Department of Labor shall use any funds received from the Federal Government, if available, for start-up costs for the program established under section 1. Ongoing funding for the program must be provided through charges or assessments to an employer's account as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1221.

**Sec. 3. Report; authority to submit bill. Resolved:** That, by November 3, 2021, the Department of Labor shall submit an implementation plan for the program established under section 1, including any necessary legislation and suggested rules, to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. The committee may submit a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

## SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Labor to create an unemployment compensation system for self-employed workers and independent contractors.