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Date: (Filing No. S-)

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 663, L.D. 1668, Bill, “An Act To Expedite Training Waiver Decisions for Unemployment Claimants by Transferring Original Jurisdiction from the Unemployment Insurance Commission to the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

Whereas, the number of applications for training waivers to the Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission has increased dramatically in 2013 because the only path for many citizens to receive their unemployment benefits requires their participation in commission-approved training; and

Whereas, the commission does not possess adequate staff to efficiently process both the training waiver case load and its normal case load despite the use of mechanisms such as overtime; and

Whereas, training waiver cases are inherently time-sensitive because claimants rely upon their unemployment benefits to pay for necessities of daily living, such as food, medicine and shelter, and failure to quickly process training waiver cases can result in citizens' having inadequate funds for these critical items; and

Whereas, the backlog of training waiver cases has increased substantially since submission of this legislation; and

Whereas, if this legislation is not enacted as an emergency, the backlog of training waiver cases will increase and adversely affect even more unemployment claimants; 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,'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 6 in the 2nd and 3rd lines from the end
2 (page 1, lines 14 and 15 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "The commission has
3 appellate jurisdiction over these cases on appeal from the deputy."

4 Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 6-C in the first paragraph in the last 2 lines
5 (page 1, lines 25 and 26 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "The commission has
6 appellate jurisdiction over these cases on appeal from the deputy."

7 Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

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

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment changes the bill by not extending appellate jurisdiction to the Maine
12 Unemployment Insurance Commission. Both original and appellate jurisdiction for
13 approval of training not approved by the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 will
14 be within the Department of Labor.

15 This amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

16 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

17 **(See attached)**