

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 560

S.P. 177

In Senate, January 28, 1997

An Act to Strengthen the Career Advantage Program.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator AMERO of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative KERR of Old Orchard Beach and
Senators: ABROMSON of Cumberland, BENNETT of Oxford, CASSIDY of Washington,
HARRIMAN of Cumberland, MacKINNON of York, SMALL of Sagadahoc,
Representatives: KONTOS of Windham, SAXL of Bangor.

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

4
6 **Whereas,** Maine ranks 10th nationally in the number of
students who complete high school, but 49th in the number of
students who pursue higher education, many of whom need
8 structured opportunities to increase their aspirations for their
future and make the connection to higher education; and

10
12 **Whereas,** in Maine's economy today, 73% of jobs require some
education and training beyond high school; and

14 **Whereas,** the Maine Career Advantage program has built over
300 partnerships statewide among secondary schools, 108 secondary
16 schools participated in fiscal year 1996, and the technical
colleges and businesses, 197 participated in fiscal year 1996, to
18 provide through business support an education program for Maine
students to gain skills and experience in Maine businesses in
20 paid internships and to move into higher education in an
associate degree program at a technical college with tuition
22 scholarships provided by businesses; and

24 **Whereas,** there has been overwhelming support from the
business community across the State to provide funding for
26 students to develop skills needed in the workplace of today and
the future, as well as to continue their education and to
28 provide, through the time and expertise of their existing
employees, guidance and training to help students develop those
30 skills; and

32 **Whereas,** there were 1,560 students participating in career
internships, summer internships and career preparation activities
34 in fiscal year 1996, 4,000 students are projected to participate
in fiscal year 1997 and student participation is expected to
36 continue to increase over the next biennium; and

38 **Whereas,** this program is recognized nationally and in Maine
for its leadership in developing a model for the creation of
40 partnerships for the benefit of Maine's youth, businesses and
communities; and

42
44 **Whereas,** it is imperative that funds be provided to the
Maine Career Advantage program before the expiration of the
90-day period; and

46
48 **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
50 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

4 **Sec. 1. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
6 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

8
10 **MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
SYSTEM**

12 **Maine Career Advantage
Program**

14 All Other \$1,040,000 \$1,081,600

16 Provides for the
18 appropriation of funds for
20 the Maine Career Advantage
program.

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

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill provides funding for the Maine Career Advantage
program, which is part of the Maine Technical College System.