

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION-2004

Legislative Document

No. 1862

S.P. 708

In Senate, February 24, 2004

An Act To Expand Access to Higher Education and Employment for Youth

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural 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 STANLEY of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner and
Senators: BRYANT of Oxford, HALL of Lincoln, Representatives: CARR of Lincoln,
DUPREY of Medway, GOODWIN of Pembroke, RICHARDSON of Brunswick, SHERMAN
of Hodgdon, SUSLOVIC of Portland.

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 5 MRSA c. 383, sub-c. 1-B is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 1-B

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

§13060-G. Internship program

1. Program established. An internship program is established to provide students attending college in the State with opportunities to obtain work experience in technology-based businesses within the Applied Technology Development Center System, established in section 15321, and in occupations and industries experiencing labor shortages. The department shall administer the program. The department shall consult with the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, the Department of Labor and the Applied Technology Development Center System in the development of the program. The department shall consult with the Department of Labor to define labor shortage areas for the purposes of this program and shall identify annually those industries and occupations that meet the definition.

2. Report. The department shall report on the progress and status of the program to any policy-making body established in state law to direct a coordinated effort to develop, realign, streamline and oversee the State's economic development policy and specific efforts to retain and attract young people, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business matters no later than January 15, 2005 and annually thereafter.

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Internship Program

Initiative: Provides funds for the internship program to provide college students with opportunities to obtain work experience in technology-based businesses and in occupations and industries experiencing labor shortages.

General Fund	2003-04	2004-05
All Other	\$0	\$100,000

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General Fund Total \$0 \$100,000

PART B

Sec. B-1. Boards of trustees of University of Maine System and Maine Community College System directed to remove barriers to student transfer within and between systems. The boards of trustees of the University of Maine System and Maine Community College System shall develop and implement a consistent policy regarding the transfer of credits between campuses within each system and between the 2 systems. The policy must apply to all campuses and must not discriminate against any particular campus. The policy must specifically address the transfer of credits with respect to academic majors and minors and must be designed to remove barriers to student transfer within and between campuses and to facilitate completion of the students' education in a timely and affordable manner. At a minimum, the policy developed by the boards of trustees must provide for the approval of credits in courses that a student has satisfactorily completed in that student's academic major and minor areas of study and is transferring to a different college campus of the university system or the community college system or between the university system and community college system. The courses accepted for credit in a student's academic major or minor must be relevant to the areas of study in which the student is seeking a degree. The boards of trustees are urged to develop and implement a policy that reflects a truly unified system of higher education in the State.

Sec. B-2. Reporting date established. The boards of trustees of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System shall report on the development and implementation of the transfer credit policy described in section 1 of this Part to any policy-making body established in state law to direct a coordinated effort to develop, realign, streamline and oversee the State's economic development policy and specific efforts to retain and attract young people and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than January 15, 2005.

PART C

Sec. C-1. University of Maine System and Maine Community College System directed to develop entrepreneurship education. The University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System shall work together to develop a unified, comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship education. This initiative must include specific courses and

workshops on starting and operating a small business and must be available to students throughout the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System.

Sec. C-2. Reporting date established. The University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System shall make an initial report on the development and implementation of entrepreneurship education to any policy-making body established in state law to direct a coordinated effort to develop, realign, streamline and oversee the State's economic development policy and specific efforts to retain and attract young people and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than January 15, 2005 and shall make a final report no later than January 15, 2007.

PART D

Sec. D-1. Authorizing Legislature to provide funding toward establishment of radiology technology program at Kennebec Valley Community College. The Legislature shall provide funding to support the establishment of a 2-year associate degree program in radiology technology at Kennebec Valley Community College to address the shortage of radiology technicians in the State.

Sec. D-2. Legislative intent; funding. It is the intent of the Legislature that, effective July 1, 2005, funds in the amount of \$100,000 be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Part.

PART E

Sec. E-1. Board of Trustees of University of Maine System to develop centers of excellence throughout University of Maine System. The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System shall develop a plan and strategy to establish centers of excellence throughout the University of Maine System and to reduce duplication of programs and services. This plan, at a minimum, must specify course and curriculum priorities for the system as a whole and for each individual campus, identify specialized fields of learning that would most likely attract young adults to the University of Maine System and that would additionally enhance the Maine economy and growth of the business sector and specify the most strategic locations for these specialized fields of learning or centers of excellence. In addition, the plan must outline a realistic timetable for developing and implementing a unified system of centers of excellence.

Sec. E-2. Board of Trustees to issue report to include cost analyses and savings initiatives to implement centers of excellence. The Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System shall issue a report to the presiding

2 officers of the Legislature no later than September 15, 2005 that
3 includes a description of the plan developed in section 1 of this
4 Part, estimated costs and savings associated with the reduction
5 in duplication of courses and curriculums and any other cost
6 reductions that can be attained by eliminating low priorities and
7 attracting more students to the University of Maine System. This
8 report must also include a plan for transforming the current
9 University of Maine System and its component campuses into a
10 truly unified and seamless higher education system.

12 PART F

14 **Sec. F-1. State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education to
15 implement plan to prepare all high school students for postsecondary
16 education.** The State Board of Education and the Commissioner of
17 Education shall develop and implement a plan, including specific
18 strategies, to ensure that every high school student in the State
19 has the opportunity to complete the core courses required for
20 college entry and is encouraged to explore postsecondary
21 educational opportunities.

22 **Sec. F-2. Reporting date established.** The State Board of
23 Education and the Commissioner of Education shall make an initial
24 report on the plan developed pursuant to section 1 of this Part
25 to any policy-making body established in state law to direct a
26 coordinated effort to develop, realign, streamline and oversee
27 the State's economic development policy and specific efforts to
28 retain and attract young people and to the joint standing
29 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education
30 matters no later than January 15, 2005 and make a final report no
31 later than January 15, 2007.

34 SUMMARY

36 Part A directs the Department of Economic and Community
37 Development to develop and administer an internship program to
38 provide college students in Maine with opportunities to work in
39 technology-based businesses in the Applied Technology Development
40 System and in occupations and industries experiencing labor
41 shortages.

42 Part B directs the Board of Trustees of the University of
43 Maine System and the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community
44 College System to develop and implement a consistent policy
45 regarding the transfer of credits between campuses within each
46 system and between the 2 systems in order to remove barriers to
47 student transfer within and between campuses and to facilitate
48 completion of the students' education in a timely and affordable
49 manner.

2 Part C directs the University of Maine System and the Maine
Community College System to work together to develop a unified,
4 comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship education throughout
both systems, including specific courses and workshops on
6 starting and operating a small business.

8 Part D creates a 2-year associate degree program in
radiology technology at Kennebec Valley Community College and
expresses the intent of the Legislature that \$100,000 be
10 appropriated for this purpose in the next biennium.

12 Part E directs the Board of Trustees of the University of
Maine System to develop a plan and strategy to establish centers
14 of excellence throughout the University of Maine System and to
reduce duplication of programs and services.

16 Part F directs the State Board of Education and the
18 Commissioner of Education to develop and implement a plan to
ensure that every high school student in Maine has the
20 opportunity to complete the core courses required for college
entry and is encouraged to explore postsecondary educational
22 opportunities.