

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION-2004

Legislative Document

No. 1883

H.P. 1399

House of Representatives, February 26, 2004

An Act To Coordinate Education, Job Training and Employers in Maine

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner.
Cosponsored by Senator STANLEY of Penobscot and
Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, DAVIS of Falmouth, FISCHER of Presque Isle,
SULLIVAN of Biddeford, THOMAS of Orono, Senators: President DAGGETT of Kennebec,
HALL of Lincoln, SAVAGE of Knox.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§7-F** is enacted to read:

6 7-F. Future Legislative 5 MRSA
7 Economic for Youth Per Diem for §13161
8 Development in Maine Legislators
9 State Work Only
10 Action
11 Tactics Team,
12 "S.W.A.T."

14 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA c. 383, sub-c. 1-B** is enacted to read:

16 **SUBCHAPTER 1-B**

18 **MARKETING AND PROMOTION**

20 **§13060-G. Comprehensive marketing strategy**

22 The department shall develop and administer a comprehensive
23 marketing strategy to promote Maine to persons 15 to 35 years of
24 age as an attractive location to pursue education, employment and
25 business development opportunities. The department shall consult
26 with the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the
27 University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System,
28 the Finance Authority of Maine, the Maine State Housing Authority
29 and other public and private stakeholders in the development of
30 the marketing strategy. The strategy must highlight the State's
31 public and private institutions of higher education and the
32 resources available for starting a business in the State. The
33 strategy must be designed to target current, former and
34 prospective residents 15 to 35 years of age.

36 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA c. 389** is enacted to read:

38 **CHAPTER 389**

40 **FUTURE FOR YOUTH IN MAINE STATE WORK ACTION TACTICS TEAM**

42 **§13161. Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action Tactics Team**
43 **established**

44 The Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action Tactics
45 Team, referred to in this chapter as "the S.W.A.T. team," is
46 established as a policy-making body to bring together
47 representatives of government, education, business and labor in a
48 focused, coordinated effort to develop, realign, streamline and
oversee the State's economic development policy and specific

2 efforts to retain and attract youth. For the purposes of this
3 chapter, "youth" means persons 15 to 35 years of age.

4 1. Policy-making members; appointment. The S.W.A.T. team
5 consists of the following 15 policy-making members, including at
6 least 2 members under 35 years of age, appointed as follows:

8 A. Five members appointed by the President of the Senate as
9 follows:

10 (1) Three members representing business; one business
11 representative must be an individual under 35 years of
12 age who has started a business;

13 (2) One member representing labor and workforce
14 development; and

15 (3) One member who is a college student under 35 years
16 of age, alternating annually between a student
17 representative on the Board of Trustees of the
18 University of Maine System and a student representative
19 on the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College
20 System;

21 B. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House as
22 follows:

23 (1) Four members representing business; and

24 (2) One member representing labor and workforce
25 development;

26 C. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the
27 chancellor's designee;

28 D. The President of the Maine Community College System or
29 the president's designee;

30 E. One representative of the Department of Economic and
31 Community Development, appointed by the Commissioner of
32 Economic and Community Development;

33 F. One representative of the Department of Education,
34 appointed by the Commissioner of Education; and

35 G. One representative of the Department of Labor, appointed
36 by the Commissioner of Labor.

37 2. Advisory members; appointment. The S.W.A.T. team
38 includes 8 nonvoting advisory members, appointed as follows:
39

- 2 A. Two Senators, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 4 B. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed
6 by the Speaker of the House;
- 8 C. Two representatives of kindergarten to grade 12
10 education, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate
12 and the Speaker of the House; one kindergarten to grade 12
 representative must be a high school student, alternately
 selected annually by the Dirigo Boys State and Dirigo Girls
 State programs or successor programs;
- 14 D. One representative of the Finance Authority of Maine,
16 appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance
 Authority of Maine; and
- 18 E. One representative of the Maine State Housing Authority,
20 appointed by the Director of the Maine State Housing
 Authority.

22 3. Terms. Members appointed to the S.W.A.T. team serve
24 3-year terms except for the high school student and college
26 student, who each serve a one-year term. The terms of the
28 initially appointed members, aside from the student appointees,
30 must be staggered as follows: Four of the initial policy-making
 appointees serve for one year, 5 serve for 2 years and 5 serve
 for 3 years; and 2 of the initial advisory members serve for one
 year, 2 serve for 2 years and 3 serve for 3 years.

32 4. Compensation. Members of the S.W.A.T. team are not
34 entitled to compensation for their services except for those
 members of the Legislature appointed to the S.W.A.T. team, who
 receive the legislative per diem.

36 **§13162. Duties**

- 38 1. Policy development and implementation. The S.W.A.T.
40 team shall:
- 42 A. Develop and oversee the implementation of comprehensive,
44 coordinated and focused economic development policies that
 optimize the use of the State's resources and investments to
 promote economic growth and development;
- 46 B. Develop and oversee the implementation of education
48 policies that focus on meeting the needs of the labor
 market, the business community and economic development
 priorities; and

50

2 C. Develop and implement short-term and long-term
3 strategies to retain and attract youth by improving
4 coordination and reducing fragmentation within and between
5 labor, education, business and economic development
6 sectors. Specific responsibilities in this area include:

7 (1) Developing and issuing a comprehensive action plan
8 for economic development and education policy
9 initiatives specifically designed to expand
10 opportunities for youth;

11 (2) Creating a publicly accessible site on the
12 Internet that is a comprehensive clearinghouse of
13 information regarding higher education, career
14 opportunities and jobs available in the State,
15 including the high-growth and high-paying jobs in the
16 State. The S.W.A.T. team shall ensure that this
17 resource is well publicized and easily accessible to
18 all residents of and all students attending high school
19 or college in the State. The S.W.A.T. team shall
20 provide statewide access to this resource no later than
21 January 15, 2005 and shall update the information at
22 least every 2 months thereafter;

23 (3) Developing and implementing an initiative to
24 provide all high school students in the State with
25 information about higher education and career
26 opportunities in the State. The initiative must include
27 information regarding public and private postsecondary
28 education programs in the State, career paths, required
29 education and training and lists of high-growth
30 occupations, high-paying jobs and occupational
31 shortages. The S.W.A.T. team shall implement the
32 initiative statewide no later than January 15, 2005; and

33 (4) Developing and implementing a program to bring
34 volunteers from business and government to high schools
35 throughout the State to provide students with
36 information about career opportunities and the
37 education required for different careers. The S.W.A.T.
38 team shall implement this program statewide no later
39 than January 15, 2005.

40 **2. Higher education planning.** The S.W.A.T. team shall:

41 A. Work with the University of Maine System and the Maine
42 Community College System to develop a plan for higher
43 education that will meet the needs of the State's economy
44 and business community for research and development,

2 commercialization of products and services, emerging
3 technologies and workforce training; and

4 B. Review the need for and develop proposals for funding to
5 develop nursing programs within the Maine Community College
6 System and specifically consider the needs of York County
7 Community College to establish such a program. The S.W.A.T.
8 team shall report on its review and proposals regarding
9 nursing programs pursuant to subsection 4.

10 3. Oversight. The S.W.A.T. team shall monitor and oversee
11 the development and implementation of initiatives undertaken by
12 state agencies and organizations to create opportunities for
13 youth through economic development, education, employment and
14 other strategies and shall report on these initiatives as part of
15 the reporting requirements under subsection 4.

16 4. Report. The S.W.A.T. team shall report all findings,
17 accomplishments, future plans and policy recommendations,
18 including its comprehensive action plan for economic and
19 education policy initiatives, to the presiding officers of the
20 Legislature, who shall refer the reports to the appropriate joint
21 standing committees of the Legislature for review. The S.W.A.T.
22 team shall make its report to the presiding officers no later
23 than January 15, 2005 and annually thereafter.

24 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA 10902-C is enacted to read:

25 §10902-C. Coordination of higher education planning and business
26 sector needs

27 1. Collaborative process. The trustees, in collaboration
28 with the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System,
29 shall develop and implement a formal process to work with public
30 and private sector representatives of business, industry and
31 economic development to coordinate higher education planning and
32 resource allocation decisions with the needs of the State's
33 economy and business sector.

34 2. Comprehensive plan. The trustees, in conjunction with
35 the Trustees of the Maine Community College System, shall develop
36 a comprehensive plan that coordinates higher education planning
37 with the needs of the business sector. The trustees shall consult
38 with the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action Tactics Team
39 established in Title 5, section 13161 in development of the
40 plan. At a minimum, the plan must address the needs of the
41 business sector with respect to research and development, the
42 commercialization of new products and services, business
43 development and workforce training.

2 3. Report. The trustees, in conjunction with the Trustees
3 of the Maine Community College System, shall report on the
4 collaborative process and comprehensive plan outlined in this
5 section to the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action
6 Tactics Team established in Title 5, section 13161, the joint
7 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
8 education matters and the joint standing committee of the
9 Legislature having jurisdiction over business matters no later
10 than January 15, 2005 and annually thereafter.

11 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12703-A is enacted to read:**

12 **§12703-A. Coordination of higher education planning and business**
13 **sector needs**

14 **1. Collaborative process.** The board of trustees, in
15 collaboration with the Trustees of the University of Maine
16 System, shall develop and implement a formal process to work with
17 public and private sector representatives of business, industry
18 and economic development to coordinate higher education planning
19 and resource allocation decisions with the needs of the State's
20 economy and business sector.

21 **2. Comprehensive plan.** The board of trustees, in
22 collaboration with the Trustees of the University of Maine
23 System, shall develop a comprehensive plan that coordinates
24 higher education planning with the needs of the business sector.
25 The board of trustees shall consult with the Future for Youth in
26 Maine State Work Action Tactics Team established in Title 5,
27 section 13161 in development of the plan. At a minimum, the plan
28 must address the needs of the business sector with respect to
29 research and development, the commercialization of new products
30 and services, business development and workforce training.

31 **3. Report.** The board of trustees, in conjunction with the
32 Trustees of the University of Maine System, shall report on the
33 collaborative process and comprehensive plan outlined in this
34 section to the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action
35 Tactics Team established in Title 5, section 13161, the joint
36 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
37 education matters and the joint standing committee of the
38 Legislature having jurisdiction over business matters no later
39 than January 15, 2005 and annually thereafter.

40 **Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶W, as amended by PL 1991, c.**
41 **780, Pt. TT, §1, is further amended to read:**

42 **W.** Pursuant to the purpose of the Act to provide housing
43 **assistance to persons of low income and in accordance with**
44 **rules adopted under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act,**
45

2 operate programs to provide energy conservation and fuel
3 assistance on behalf of persons of low income in connection
4 with single-family or multi-unit residential housing and
5 accept, obtain, distribute and administer federal and state
6 funds, including block grants, for energy conservation and
7 fuel assistance for the purpose of operating those programs.

8 (1) The Maine State Housing Authority shall report to
9 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
10 jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs
11 on June 30, 1992 and annually thereafter on the
12 low-income energy assistance program. The report must
13 include, but is not limited to, program revenue and
14 expenditures, number of individuals served and types of
15 services provided; and

16 **Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶X**, as enacted by PL 1991, c.
17 9, Pt. I, §7 and affected by §8, is amended to read:

18 X. Advise the Governor and other officials of State
19 Government on matters relating to energy conservation; and

20 **Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶Y** is enacted to read:

21 Y. Expand access to housing for young professionals and
22 young families. The Maine State Housing Authority shall
23 develop recommendations to create or modify programs with
24 the goal of expanding access to housing for young
25 professionals and young families. The Maine State Housing
26 Authority shall specifically consider strategies to assist
27 renters and first-time home buyers who are under 35 years of
28 age and explore options for linking assistance levels to
29 student loan obligations. The Maine State Housing Authority
30 shall collaborate with the Maine Community College System,
31 vocational high schools and community action programs to
32 encourage the development of affordable housing in high-cost
33 housing areas of the State.

34 (1) The Maine State Housing Authority shall report its
35 findings and recommendations regarding expanded access
36 to housing for young professionals and young families
37 to the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action
38 Tactics Team established in Title 5, section 13161 and
39 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
40 having jurisdiction over housing matters no later than
41 January 15, 2005 and annually thereafter.

42

SUMMARY

2

The purpose of this bill is to create and expand opportunities in Maine to retain and attract youth, defined as persons 15 to 35 years of age. This bill does the following.

6

1. It directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote Maine to youth as an attractive location to pursue education, employment and business development opportunities.

12

2. It establishes the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action Tactics Team, "S.W.A.T.," to bring together representatives of government, education, business and labor in a focused, coordinated effort to realign, streamline and oversee the State's economic development policy and specific efforts to retain and attract youth. The S.W.A.T. team consists of 15 policy-making members, including at least 2 members under 35 years of age, and 8 advisory members.

20

3. It directs the trustees of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to develop and implement a formal process to work collaboratively with public and private sector representatives of business, industry and economic development to coordinate higher education planning and resource allocation decisions with the needs of the State's economy and business sector. The bill also directs the trustees to develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate higher education with the needs of the business sector and requires the plan to address the needs of the business sector with respect to research and development, the commercialization of new products and services, business development and workforce training.

34

4. It directs the Maine State Housing Authority to develop recommendations to create or modify programs with the goal of expanding access to housing for young professionals and young families and specifically to consider strategies to assist renters and first-time home buyers who are under 35 years of age and explore options for linking assistance levels to student loan obligations.

42