

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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103

L.D. 1910

DATE:

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LABOR

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1351, L.D. 1910, Bill, "An Act To Create Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities"

Amend the bill by striking out all of Part A and Part B.

Further amend the bill in Part C by inserting at the end the following:

Sec. C-2. Disability employment services activities and functions.

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources, based on the availability of financial resources, shall reinstate the activities and functions previously associated with the position of Disability Employment Services Coordinator to provide oversight and facilitation of the duties of the State relative to the employment of workers with disabilities in all state agencies and to continue certification and appointment policies for such employees pursuant to existing state policies and rules.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of Part D and Part E and inserting in their place the following:

PART D

Sec. D-1. Report. The Department of Labor jointly with the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit, no later than January 1, 2007, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters a report regarding employment opportunities for individuals with

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2 developmental disabilities. The departments shall produce the
3 report in consultation with the Maine Jobs Council's Standing
4 Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, established
5 in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 2006; Speaking
6 Up For Us of Maine; the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council;
7 the Disability Rights Center of Maine; the Maine Association of
8 Community Service Providers; the Brain Injury Association of
9 Maine; and other interested parties. The report must address the
10 following issues:

11 1. Ways to enhance access to employment opportunities for
12 adults with developmental disabilities and a strategy to make
13 supportive employment services the primary form of support
14 services available to adults with developmental disabilities,
15 especially when they graduate from high school;

16 2. Data on the number of individuals who receive
17 freestanding day habilitation funding versus supportive
18 employment funding and the amount of funding involved, including
19 state grant funds, state seed funds and federal funds. The
20 report also must address data on the number of newly graduating
21 high school students who received services through the
22 freestanding day habilitation entitlement in each of the past 2
23 years, the cost associated with this entitlement, the projected
24 cost of this entitlement in fiscal year 2006-07 and fiscal year
25 2007-08 and the location within the budget where funds for this
26 entitlement are located;

27 3. The possibility of using currently earmarked
28 freestanding day habilitation funds for supportive employment,
29 including the possibility of converting the state match for the
30 current day habilitation services to a new jobs program under a
31 new Medicaid waiver;

32 4. The relative merits of administering state supportive
33 employment services to individuals with developmental
34 disabilities through the Department of Labor as opposed to the
35 Department of Health and Human Services;

36 5. The extent to which individuals who receive supportive
37 employment services have a plan for achieving self-support
38 approved by the Social Security Administration;

39 6. A review of other states' policies regarding supportive
40 employment, including the State of Washington;

41 7. The reasons for and against implementing a new state
42 policy modeled after the State of Washington policy that mandates
43 supportive employment services for the class of 2007 high school
44 graduates; and
45

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8. The resources that need to be available to existing providers of supportive employment and day habilitation services in order to successfully shift their emphasis to job development for adults with developmental disabilities.

PART E

Sec. E-1. Report. No later than January 31, 2007, the Maine Jobs Council's Standing Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, working jointly with the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development, shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters a report identifying the resources necessary for the development and implementation of a media campaign designed to increase statewide awareness of employment-related issues affecting individuals with disabilities and an employer outreach campaign designed to engage employers in discussions and information exchange about issues, services and support systems related to the employment of individuals with disabilities, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Presentations to business groups and associations, including chambers of commerce. These presentations must include participation by individuals with disabilities who are successfully employed and local service provider agencies that can assist employers in recruiting, training and retaining individuals with disabilities in employment;

2. Information sessions and training workshops presented at conferences and other meetings where employers are in attendance and employment issues are addressed;

3. The planning and convening of other business-oriented events that focus on the needs, benefits, supports and opportunities related to the employment of individuals with disabilities; and

4. The development of a library of business-oriented promotional materials to be used in public information and awareness sessions and available to employers by request at any time.

The report shall include recommendations for funding and implementing the 2 campaigns.'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

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SUMMARY

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6 The amendment strikes from the bill Part A, which provided a
8 state tax credit to employers for wages paid to employees with
10 disabilities, and Part B, which provided a state earned income
12 tax credit to taxpayers with disabilities. It adds language to
14 require the Department of Administrative and Financial Services,
16 Bureau of Human Resources to reinstate, based on the availability
18 of financial resources, the activities and functions previously
20 associated with the position of Disability Employment Services
22 Coordinator in order to provide oversight and facilitation of
24 duties relative to the employment of workers with disabilities in
26 state agencies. The amendment replaces Part D with language that
28 requires the Department of Health and Human Services and the
30 Department of Labor to produce a report, in consultation with
several disabilities services agencies and interested parties,
regarding employment opportunities for individuals with
developmental disabilities. Finally, the amendment strikes
language in Part E requiring the development of a media campaign
and replaces it with a requirement that the Maine Jobs Council's
Standing Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities,
working jointly with the Department of Labor and the Department
of Economic and Community Development, submit a report with
recommendations regarding the funding and implementation of a
media campaign and an employer outreach campaign.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1910

LR 2828(02)

An Act To Create Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Labor

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Costs associated with reinstating the activities and functions previously associated with the position of Disability Employment Services Coordinator relative to the employment of workers with disabilities in state agencies can be absorbed by the Bureau of Human Resources within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.

Additional costs to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of Economic and Community Development associated with preparing the required reports can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.