

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 1998 to June 19, 1999

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1999

Sec. B-9. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Part.

1999-00

LEGISLATURE

Select Commission to Study State Participation in Funding Cleanup and Remediation of Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites

Personal Services	\$1,375
All Other	1,750

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members for 5 meetings of the Select Commission to Study State Participation in Funding Cleanup and Remediation of Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites and to print the required report.

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TOTAL \$3,125

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 506

S.P. 594 - L.D. 1718

An Act to Ensure that Displaced Workers Have Access to Appropriate Job Training, Education and Employment Services through a Peer Support Program

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA c. 26-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 26-A

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR DISPLACED WORKERS

§2061. Program created

The Peer Support Program for Displaced Workers is created within the department to provide

advocacy and information for workers displaced by significant layoffs. The program may initiate one or more projects to assist employees as provided in this chapter and as resources permit. The department is authorized to use any available resources or to apply for federal grants to implement this chapter. Any funds appropriated by the Legislature for a pilot program or this program may not lapse but must be carried forward.

§2062. Peer Support Projects

1. Initiation of project. When 100 or more employees of a single employer are laid off, the department shall initiate a peer support project to assist the affected employees. The department may initiate a project when 50 or more employees are laid off if the bureau determines that a peer support project is warranted, after considering the particular needs of the affected workforce and the affected communities.

2. Employment and role of peer support workers. For each project, the department shall employ one or more peer support workers who must be displaced nonmanagerial employees from the affected workforce. The department shall attempt in all cases to hire one peer support worker for each 50 affected employees and to hire at least 2 peer support workers for each project. A peer support worker shall serve as a worker advocate and an information source connecting the affected workers and the State's workforce development programs. The peer support worker shall use the resources of local employment assistance programs as well as state programs. The department shall collaborate with employee representatives in hiring and overseeing peer support workers. The department shall ensure that peer support workers have an opportunity to receive training and to work as a team even if they are geographically dispersed.

3. Duration of project. The department shall determine the duration of each project, taking into consideration the size, scope and nature of the layoff and the period of time over which the layoffs occur.

Sec. 2. Report. The Department of Labor shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor by January 14, 2000 on the status of the Peer Support Program for Displaced Workers funded in fiscal year 1999-00 and the availability of funding to continue the program in fiscal year 2000-01 and future biennia.

Sec. 3. Effective date. Section 1 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2000.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.