LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 20, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

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

Augusta, Maine
2025

(2) "Office" means the Office of Child and Family Services established in section 5308.

B. The office shall use direct contracts to increase the availability of child care for children under 3 years of age, children with disabilities and children in underserved geographic areas.

C. The office may use direct contracts to increase the availability of child care for children other than children identified in paragraph B based on priorities identified by the office. Such priorities may include, but are not limited to, homeless children, children who are receiving services under the child welfare system, children who need care during nontraditional hours, children for whom English is a 2nd language and other regional child care needs.

D. The office shall review regional needs assessment information to determine priorities for the use of direct contracts, including, but not limited to, needs assessment information from Head Start programs and early childhood learning and development resource groups.

E. To the extent permitted by federal law, the office may use funding from any public or private source for the purposes of this subsection.

F. The office shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 324

H.P. 1094 - L.D. 1653

An Act to Develop Maine's Credentialed Workforce

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 447 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 447

MAINE CREDENTIALED WORKFORCE PROGRAM

§12995. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Authority. "Authority" means the Finance Authority of Maine.

2. Eligible student loan. "Eligible student loan" means an undergraduate or graduate school student loan obtained for study at an accredited institution of higher education by a student eligible to receive assistance under a federal student assistance program authorized under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV.

3. Fund. "Fund" means the Maine Credentialed Workforce Program Fund established in section 12997.

4. Priority occupation. "Priority occupation" means a profession needing skilled workers as identified by the authority in consultation with workforce experts and in the Department of Economic and Community Development publication "Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029," or successor economic development strategy for the State.

5. Program. "Program" means the Maine Credentialed Workforce Program established in section 12996.

§12996. Maine Credentialed Workforce Program

1. Establishment; administration. The Maine Credentialed Workforce Program is established to support the credentialing needs of current and future participants in the State's workforce. The authority shall administer the program. The authority's chief executive officer may consult with experts on an ad hoc basis regarding business, education, labor and workforce needs in prioritizing targeted professions.

2. Eligibility requirements. The authority shall establish by rule eligibility requirements for the program, which must include, at a minimum:

A. That the applicant has received an associate degree, bachelor's degree or graduate degree or a credential within 5 years of the date of application;

B. That the applicant has outstanding student loan debt or eligible student loans; and

C. That the applicant is willing to accept and maintain employment in a priority occupation position in the State for a minimum of 4 years in return for repayment by the authority of a portion of that applicant's student loan debt.

3. Application. An application to the program must be made directly to the authority at a time and in a format to be determined by the authority.

4. Maximum loan repayment. The maximum loan repayment amount available to a participant in the program is $25,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years.

5. Loan repayment agreement; provisions. The authority shall enter into loan repayment agreements with participants in the program on terms and conditions acceptable to the authority, which at a minimum must require the participant and the participant's employer to certify annually, before any payment by the authority under the loan repayment agreement may be made, that the participant has been employed in a priority occupation position for the preceding 12-month period.

§12997. Maine Credentialed Workforce Program Fund

1. Fund created. The Maine Credentialed Workforce Program Fund is established within the authority as a nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The fund consists of any funds appropriated, allocated or contributed from private or public sources, including from state and federal sources, and any existing funding for other authority programs that, at the discretion of the authority, may be combined with the program. The funds, to be accounted within the authority, must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

2. Fund administration. The authority may receive, invest and expend on behalf of the fund money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to money appropriated or allocated by the State and any federal funds received by the State for the benefit of workers in the State who have outstanding eligible student loans. Money received by the authority on behalf of the fund must be used for the purposes of this chapter. The fund must be maintained and administered by the authority. Any unexpended balance in the fund carries forward for continued use under this chapter, except for federal funds that must be expended according to guidelines issued by the Federal Government governing the use of those funds.

3. Fund expenses. Costs and expenses of maintaining, servicing and administering the fund and of administering the program may be paid out of amounts in the fund.

§12998. Awards

1. Publication of priority occupations. The authority shall publicize, using a method determined by the authority and taking into consideration the recommendations of workforce experts, the priority occupations for the upcoming application cycle.

2. Application cycle. The authority shall publicize the dates and deadlines of the application cycle using a method determined by the authority.

3. Award amounts. The authority shall maintain financial projections and establish the targeted number of annual awards to be made to applicants each year who meet the criteria described in section 12996, subsection 2. In accordance with the priority occupations and point system established by the authority, an annual award may not:

A. Exceed $25,000 annually;

B. Exceed $100,000 in aggregate or 50% of a recipient's outstanding eligible student loan debt at the time of application to the program, whichever is less; or

C. Be awarded to a recipient for more than 4 years total.

§12999. Rules

The authority may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

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

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Maine Credentialed Workforce Program Fund N524

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures of funds received from public or private sources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	**2025-26**	**2026-27**
All Other	$500	$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	$500	$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 325

H.P. 1000 - L.D. 1516

An Act to Strengthen the Maine Development Foundation

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §919, as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 662, §3, is amended to read:

§919. Board of directors; officers

The Board of Directors of the Maine Development Foundation, referred to in this chapter as "the ~~"~~board of directors," consists of a minimum of 15 directors elected or appointed to serve in that capacity in accordance with this section. The board of directors shall annually determine the number of directors for the succeeding year. The corporators shall elect 1/2 of the elected directors from among the private sector corporators and 1/2 of the elected directors from among the public sector corporators. The Governor shall appoint 2 directors from among the ex officio corporators. ~~Except for the president of the Maine Development Foundation, a person may not serve as a director for more than 5 years in succession.~~ Elected directors must be elected to 4-year staggered terms, as provided by the board of directors, and may not be elected for more than