

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 795**

H. P. 640

House of Representatives, February 26, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Lewis of Auburn.

Cosponsor: Mr. Quinn of Gorham.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT to Establish a Cooperative Education Support Program.**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 157 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 157

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

§ 1901. Program

There is established a State Government cooperative education support program for the purpose of providing work opportunities in state institutions and agencies to students enrolled in approved post-secondary universities, colleges or institutes in Maine to be administered by the Department of Finance and Administration.

§ 1902. Purposes

1. Purposes. The purposes of the program are:

- A. To permit state agencies to employ qualified students enrolled in post-secondary cooperative education programs without regard to personnel count;
- B. To provide students with practical experiences related to their field of study which can only be obtained through full-time employment;
- C. To assist students to defray higher education costs;
- D. To lessen the demand for work during the summer months and disperse it throughout the entire year;

E. To provide department or agency heads with the opportunity of observing and evaluating potential employees on the job thus facilitating the recruitment and selection of personnel to fill state openings;

F. To stimulate interest in employment in the State of Maine on the part of college educated students.

§ 1903. Procedure

There shall be established within the Department of Finance and Administration a continuous reserve of money called the Cooperative Education Account for the purpose of employing students enrolled in cooperative education programs in accredited colleges, universities or institutes in the State of Maine. Only programs that require full-time employment for a period of not less than 10 weeks shall be included.

Appropriate department or agency heads may request the employment of any such student on a form provided by the Department of Personnel.

Each student must be approved by the institution he attends, the agency or department head and the Department of Personnel.

It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Personnel to exercise control over the number of students assigned to a single agency at any given time.

Upon the approval of the Department of Personnel, the Commissioner of Finance and Administration or his designee shall release to the state agency concerned a sum of money sufficient to cover the costs of the employment of a student for the prescribed length of time.

All students so employed will be required to adhere to the policies covering the employment of all personnel in the agency.

§ 1904. Maintenance of Cooperative Education Account

Funds in this account will be carried forward from one fiscal year to the next. The Commissioner of Finance and Administration or his designee shall request from subsequent Legislatures an amount sufficient to replenish the funds in accordance with estimated needs. The Commissioner of Finance and Administration or his designee is authorized to accept gifts, bequests and endowments for the purposes consistent with this chapter; and to accept federal, private foundation or other grants and matching funds when determined to be in the best interest of the program.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Finance and Administration the sum of \$50,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION,		
DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$20,000	\$30,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish a Cooperative Education Support Program.