

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 2257

S. P. 721

In Senate, February 24, 1976

Reported by Senator Reeves of Kennebec from the Joint Select Committee on Jobs pursuant to Joint Order (S. P. 391) and printed under Joint Rules No. 3.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Filed under Joint Rule 3, Pursuant to S. P. 391.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SIX

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**RESOLVE Requiring Planning for Expansion of Wood Harvesting  
Programs by the Bureau of Vocational Education of the  
Department of Educational and Cultural Services.**

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**Wood Harvesting Programs; planning for expansion. Resolved:** That, as the Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute has a proven successful program to train high school graduates in wood harvesting and there is a much greater need for graduates of such programs in the State, the Bureau of Vocational Education of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services shall, out of its current operating budget, prepare a plan to implement an expansion of this wood harvesting program at Washington County Vocational-Technical Institute and to implement a similar wood harvesting program at Northern Maine Vocational-Technical Institute; and the Bureau shall present this plan to the next special session of the 107th Legislature or to the first regular session of the 108th Legislature.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this resolve is to provide planning for an increase in wood harvesting training in the Washington County and Northern Maine Vocational-Technical Institutes. The program at WCTVI has proven its success in training high school graduates in the skills of wood harvesting and then in placing them in well-paying positions in the State. Many of these graduates replace bonded Canadian laborers and thus do not displace Maine residents. Thus, the net effect of this program is to reduce unemployment with-

out displacing present Maine workers. The demand for graduates of this program is strong and will continue to strengthen in years to come. There are currently approximately 500 jobs available for such trained employees, and there will be an estimated 633 new jobs each year for the next 4 years, due to the expansions already in progress in the industry. The average wage in the industry for wood harvesters is \$11,325 for 37 hours per week and 44 weeks per year, plus allowances.

If the proven program at WCVTI were expanded to meet the expected demand for trained wood harvesters, the cost would be approximately \$750,000 per year. However, this would mean \$5,660,000 in increased salaries to Maine residents, with consequential effects on the Maine economy and tax revenues. In addition, bonded Canadian laborers would be displaced by these graduates, thus causing a net increase in salaries to Maine residents.

Thus, this resolve directs the Bureau of Vocational Education of the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to prepare and present a plan to expand this program at WCVTI and implement it at NMVTI.