

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1288

H. P. 1028

House of Representatives, March 16, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Wyman of Pittsfield.

Cosponsors: Mr. Diamond of Windham, Mr. Fenlason of Danforth and Mr. Wood of Sanford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Establish a Work Experience and Training Program within the
Department of Manpower Affairs.**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA c. 11-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 11-A

WORK EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING PROGRAM

§ 1011. Work Experience and Training Program

There is established within the Department of Manpower Affairs a Work Experience and Training Program.

§ 1012. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a job training and placement program which is appropriate to the needs of eligible recipients of welfare benefits, which will create incentive to seek permanent, gainful employment, and which will assist eligible recipients in establishing eventual economic self-sufficiency. The

program requires recipients of welfare benefits to enlist in a mandatory job training and placement program or lose a portion of their benefits.

§ 1013. Duration; location

The program shall be for a period of 3 years and shall be adopted in 3 counties, selected by the Department of Manpower Affairs, which have a mixture of rural and urban population.

§ 1014. Eligibility

1. Assignment. Work Incentive Program recipients shall be assigned to the Work Experience and Training Program unless:

A. The Work Incentive Program assigns the registrant to a training or employment program, separate from the Work Experience and Training Program;

B. The registrant produces a physician's statement that incapacity or illness prevents his participation in the Work Experience and Training Program for the duration of the incapacity or illness;

C. He is referred to an employer by the Maine Employment Security Commission or other agency for a period as long as necessary to complete a job interview;

D. He is employed full-time or part-time in excess of 20 hours a week;

E. The registrant is the mother of school-age children during the period of school vacations of more than one week; or

F. The Commissioner of Manpower Affairs, or his designee, in conjunction with the Work Experience and Training Program sponsor, determines that unusual or extenuating circumstances prevent performance on the project.

§ 1015. Administration

1. Contract established. The program establishes a contract between the work project sponsors and the Department of Manpower Affairs, on behalf of eligible recipients. The contracts shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following provisions.

A. The work project sponsor shall provide training in vocational skills and supervised work experience.

B. The work project sponsor shall provide the job to the recipient for a minimum period of one year.

C. The work project sponsor shall pay the recipient the prevailing minimum wage.

D. The recipient shall not work more than 96 hours a month, nor more than 24 hours in one week, and shall be granted time off to attend interviews for prospective employment.

2. **Advisory committee.** The Governor shall appoint an advisory committee of 7 persons, comprised of representatives of public and private sector employers, labor and an advocate for recipients, to set goals and objectives for the program and to develop criteria to measure the success of the program. They shall also monitor the progress and effectiveness of the projects set up under the program. The advisory committee shall make periodic reports to the Commissioner of Manpower Affairs or his designee.

3. **Report.** The Commissioner of Manpower Affairs or his designee, with the assistance of the advisory committee, shall submit an annual progress report to the Legislature. The commissioner or his designee shall submit a final written report to the Legislature within 6 months of the completion of the program.

4. **Rules.** The Commissioner shall adopt such rules as are necessary for the operation of the program, these rules shall be approved by the advisory committee.

5. **Participation.** The commissioner and the advisory committee shall make ever effort to insure full participation as sponsors by private industry and business, as well as government and private nonprofit organizations.

§ 1016. Acceptance of federal and other funds

The department shall have authority to accept any federal law now in effect or hereafter enacted which makes federal funds available for employment services of all kinds and to meet federal requirements with respect to the administration of such funds as are required as conditions precedent to receiving federal funds. The department, subject to the approval of the Governor, shall have the authority to accept funds from other sources for this same purpose.

Sec. 2. **Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1979-80

MANPOWER AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF

Work Experience and Training Program

All Other

\$10,000

These funds shall not lapse but shall be carried forward in a continuing carrying account for this same purpose.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is intended to establish a pilot program for certain recipients of welfare benefits. The Department of Manpower Affairs, in conjunction with private and public sponsors, will establish training and supervised work experience projects, which will assist trainees in developing good working habits, learning marketable skills and earning a minimum wage while doing so. The program will be under the supervision of an appointed advisory committee, which will report annually to the Legislature during the 3 years of the duration of the project.

This bill is specifically designed to encourage business and industry, as well as government and private nonprofit organizations, to help create meaningful jobs and job training for welfare recipients, thus lowering the cost of government spending for welfare.