MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 683

S.P. 212

In Senate, February 25, 1993

An Act to Establish a Full Employment Program as a Pilot Project in Certain Counties of the State.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HANLEY of Oxford.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BENNETT of Norway, BRUNO of Raymond, QUINT of Paris.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
	Sec. 1. 26 MRSA c. 34 is enacted to read:
	CHAPTER 34
	FULL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
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	\$2194. Full Employment Program demonstration project
	1. Administration of program. The Bureau of Employment and
	Training Programs within the Department of Labor shall administer
	and operate, in cooperation with the Department of Human
	Services, the Full Employment Program, established and referred
1	to in the chapter as the "program."
	2. Purpose. The program is a 3-year pilot program in which
	residents of Oxford County are provided with jobs, in lieu of
	receiving coupons under the food stamp program, payments under
	the unemployment compensation system or payments from aid to
	families with dependent children. The purposes of the program
	are to promote self-respect and encourage the unemployed who are
	willing to work to become self-sufficient and improve their
J	position in the work force.
	3. Waivers and rules. The Governor and the Legislature
į	shall petition the United States Congress to obtain any
	exemptions and waivers from and amendments to federal statutes,
	rules and regulations necessary to implement the program and to
	make funds from the suspended federal programs available to the
_	program. Upon obtaining all such exemptions, waivers and
	amendments, the Commissioner of Labor shall adopt changes to
	current rules as may be required to implement the program under
- 1	this chapter.
	4. Advisory board. A voluntary advisory board is
	established in Oxford County to assist the Bureau of Employment
	and Training Programs in the administration of the program and to
	allow flexibility in dealing with the particular needs of Oxford
	County. The board shall develop policy and procedures consistent
	with this chapter and the rules adopted by the bureau. The board
	<u>is comprised of 7 members who must be appointed by the county</u>
	commissioners in cooperation with the Department of Labor. Board
	members must be residents of Oxford County and appointed to
	<u>3-year terms.</u>
	5. Funding. Funds apportioned to or appropriated for
	expenditure by the State under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act,
	the food stamp program and the aid to families with dependent children program must be used as necessary for the purposes of
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this chapter.

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6. Eligibility. Participation in the program is voluntary and any resident of Oxford County who is 18 years of age or older is eligible to participate in the program. Oxford County residents 16 to 18 years of age are eligible for summer work in the program.

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- 7. Employers allowed to participate. Every employer, including public and private sector employers, within the State may utilize program participants according to rules established by the Department of Labor. An employer is not required to utilize eligible individuals in the program. Unassigned participants are assigned to work for public agencies located within Oxford County.
- 8. Report. The Commissioner of Labor shall submit an implementation plan to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, who shall provide copies, including any necessary legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters, no later than January 15, 1994.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill directs the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Human Services to create the Full Employment Program, a pilot program for residents of Oxford County. The program removes citizens who volunteer from the aid to families with dependent children program, the food stamp program and the unemployment compensation system and provides them with a job in either the public or private sector. The Commissioner of Labor must submit an implementation plan by January 15, 1994.