

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1427

S.P. 453

In Senate, March 11, 1997

**An Act to Create Quality Employment and Business Ownership
Opportunities for Social Assistance Recipients.**

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services and the Committee on
Business and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PINGREE of Knox.
Cosponsored by Senators: JENKINS of Androscoggin, KILKELLY of Lincoln, O'GARA of
Cumberland, RAND of Cumberland, TREAT of Kennebec, Representative: SAXL of Portland.

principal goal is to focus on helping people obtain and retain employment that sustains themselves and their families.

2. Administration. The departments shall jointly administer the program.

3. Funding. Funds must be appropriated jointly to the departments by the Legislature to be granted to eligible organizations.

4. Award of grants. The departments shall establish standards for the implementation of the program and the award of grants. Standards must include but are not limited to the provisions of section 8803.

5. Report. The Work Opportunities Advisory Committee shall submit a report annually to the commissioners no later than December 15th.

§8803. Eligibility for grants

Any organization may apply to the departments for grants under the program based on the following eligibility requirements.

Applicants must demonstrate high standards of effectiveness in 5 areas:

1. Administration. Administration including strong interpersonal and management skills;

2. Client development. Individual client development, including professional reliance on developing resources from the individual client to identify or shape program activities;

3. Workforce development. Workforce development, including initiatives that prepare individuals for the workplace, connect with employers and emphasize the connection between learning and work;

4. Partnership development. Partnership development, including coordination of services with other entities involved in providing employment and training for individuals receiving social assistance to ensure long-term employment opportunities; and

5. Organization accountability. Evidence of success, including evaluation components utilizing credible data or other measures that reflect the soundness of the program goals and the ability to achieve desired outcomes.

2
3 **§8804. Application procedure**

4 An applicant shall complete and return to the departments a
5 program application, including supporting schedules developed by
6 the departments. No application may be approved unless the
7 commissioners determine the application is complete and the
8 grantee is eligible.

9
10 **§8805. Program requirements**

11 The departments shall develop a program implementation plan
12 that includes the services to be provided by the grantees. Those
13 services must include but are not limited to the following.

14
15 1. Case management services. The grantee shall work with
16 case managers and employment training organizations to refer and
17 place individuals participating in the grantee's programs in job
18 openings.

19
20 2. Small business training assessments. The grantee shall
21 conduct employment training assessments with small businesses
22 involved in the grantee's programs to ensure appropriate client
23 match with a job, considering geography, skill and timing.

24
25 3. Employment training agreements. The grantee shall
26 develop employment training agreements that target new jobs
27 created for individuals receiving social assistance.

28
29 4. Job tracking information. The grantee shall transfer
30 job opening and job placement information to the job bank
31 established pursuant to section 8809 to track job referrals and
32 placements.

33
34 5. Coordination of services. The grantee shall oversee the
35 link between resources available for the client and the needs of
36 the business including child care, transportation costs, training
37 programs or a combination. The grantee shall involve other
38 economic development organizations in the process of overseeing
39 links between client and business needs to expand the job base.

40
41 6. Monitoring of job placements. The grantee shall monitor
42 job placements to ensure the client and the business are given
43 the best chance to succeed.

44
45 7. Geographic distribution. The grantee shall provide
46 equitable access to services for clients living in diverse areas
47 of the State. Access to these services may be reasonably limited
48 by the grantee due to factors such as availability of staff and
49 funding.

2 **§8806. Advisory committee**

4 A Work Opportunities Advisory Committee is established by
6 the commissioners to assist in the development, implementation
8 and oversight of the program.

10 1. Duties. The Work Opportunities Advisory Committee shall
12 advise the commissioners or the commissioners' designees
14 regarding education, training, job opportunities, other matters
16 affecting recipients of social assistance and the impact of these
18 factors on the program.

20 2. Members. The commissioners shall jointly appoint the
22 members of the committee. Members must include at least the
24 following:

26 A. Two recipients of benefits under a social assistance
28 program;

30 B. One representative of employers within the State;

32 C. One representative of organized labor;

34 D. One representative of women's interests; and

36 E. One or more representatives of organizations or agencies
38 that have experience in addressing the training, education
40 and job needs of low-income individuals.

42 3. Terms; removal. Members serve for 3-year terms. A
44 person may not be appointed for more than 2 consecutive terms.
46 Members may be removed by the commissioners for cause.

48 4. Compensation. Members of the committee are compensated
50 for expenses only.

§8807. Availability of funds

This chapter may not be construed to mean that any
department, agency, institution or program is required to
obligate or expend funds beyond existing funds available to them
for these purposes.

§8808. Monitoring of grantees

The departments shall review each grantee at least annually
to ensure compliance with section 8805 and to ensure that quality
services are provided by the grantee. The departments shall
adopt rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure
Act by which satisfactory performance is measured. The rules

2 must identify the circumstances under which sanctions, including
3 grant suspension, reduction or termination, are applied. These
4 rules are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter
5 375, subchapter II-A.

6 **§8809. Job bank**

8 The departments shall establish a job bank that is
9 continually updated and matched with appropriate positions
10 available within participating businesses. The job bank serves
11 as a central clearing house on job-related information for the
12 departments and the grantees.

14 **§8810. Rules**

16 The departments shall adopt rules in accordance with the
17 Maine Administrative Procedure Act for the implementation of this
18 chapter. These rules are routine technical rules as defined by
19 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

20 **§8811. Effective date**

22 This chapter is repealed July 15, 2001 unless authorized for
23 continuation by the Legislature.

26

27 **SUMMARY**

28

30 This bill establishes the Quality Employment Opportunities
31 and Business Ownership Opportunities program, a demonstration
32 project. The Department of Human Services and the Department of
33 Economic and Community Development will administer the program.
34 Grants will be made by the departments to eligible organizations
35 under the program. These eligible organizations must have
36 demonstrated effectiveness in targeting new jobs, building
37 partnerships, coordinating services and providing individuals
38 receiving social assistance opportunities for employment.

38

40 The departments are authorized to adopt rules for the
41 implementation of the program. The rules are routine technical
42 rules as defined by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter
43 375, subchapter II-A.