

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAJORITY
LABOR

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1430, L.D. 1994, Bill, "An Act to Establish a Migrant Worker Assistance Office in Central Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Establish a Migrant and Immigrant Worker Assistance Office in Central Maine'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1404 is enacted to read:

§1404. Migrant and immigrant worker assistance outreach project

The department, to the extent possible within available resources, shall establish a migrant and immigrant worker assistance outreach project to assist migrant and immigrant workers in the State. The project shall coordinate with employers, employees, labor unions, nonprofit agencies and government agencies that serve migrant and immigrant workers to promote efforts that:

1. Educate. Educate employers and migrant and immigrant workers about state and federal laws that establish workers' employment-related rights and responsibilities;

2. Facilitate. Facilitate access for non-English-speaking workers to necessary translation services and programs that teach English as a 2nd language;

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3. Assist. Assist migrant and immigrant workers in obtaining services necessary to improve their health and safety and broaden their employment opportunities; and

4. Advocate. Advocate for migrant and immigrant workers who seek redress of their grievances or who seek to make claims through government agencies and facilitate workers' access to legal services.

Sec. 2. Report. The Department of Labor shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters by January 2, 1999 regarding the activities it has undertaken pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1404. The report must include a list of written materials produced and distributed to migrant and immigrant workers, available labor market information about migrant and immigrant workers in the State, a description of the outreach activities to those workers that take place in the State by nonprofit and government agencies, an assessment of the number of migrant and immigrant workers reached as a result of this outreach and the effectiveness of the outreach, an assessment of the barriers that migrant and immigrant workers face in obtaining basic information about employment-related rights and responsibilities and safety net services and an assessment of the resources needed to assist in removing those barriers. The department shall seek input and comment from all interested parties in developing and reviewing its report.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

This bill establishes a migrant and immigrant worker assistance outreach project within the Department of Labor, but limits the scope of the project to that which is "possible within available resources." No additional funding is provided for this project in this bill, therefore, the department will continue existing efforts in this area without any substantial change.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. It requires the Department of Labor, rather than the Bureau of Labor Standards, to establish a migrant and immigrant worker assistance outreach project to the extent possible within existing resources and to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature

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2 having jurisdiction over labor matters by January 2, 1999 with an evaluation of the project.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT