

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 1994

H.P. 1430

House of Representatives, January 14, 1998

An Act to Establish a Migrant Worker Assistance Office in Central Maine.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LEMAIRE of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator RAND of Cumberland and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, HATCH of Skowhegan, SAMSON of Jay,
TOWNSEND of Portland, Senator: JENKINS of Androscoggin.

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

4 Sec. 1. 26 MRSa §52 is enacted to read:

6 §52. Migrant and immigrant assistance outreach project

8 1. Project. The bureau shall establish a migrant and
10 immigrant worker assistance outreach project to assist migrant
12 and immigrant workers in Maine. The migrant and immigrant
14 outreach project shall coordinate employers, employees, labor
16 unions, nonprofit agencies and government agencies that serve
18 migrant and immigrant workers to promote efforts that:

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

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

32 C. Assist workers to obtain services necessary to improve
34 their health and safety and broaden their employment
36 opportunities; and

38 D. Advocate for workers who seek redress of their
40 grievances or who seek to establish claims before government
42 agencies and facilitate their access to legal services.

44 2. Contract. The bureau shall contract with a nonprofit
46 agency that has a mission to assist workers to operate the
48 migrant and immigrant worker outreach project and shall cooperate
with the agency in obtaining other funds from public and private
sources to accomplish the purposes of the project.

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

1998-99

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Labor Standards

Migrant and Immigrant Assistance

All Other \$260,000

2 Provides funds to contract with a nonprofit
agency to operate a migrant and immigrant
4 worker outreach project.

4

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8 SUMMARY

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10 This bill requires the Bureau of Labor Standards, within the
Department of Labor, to establish and fund a migrant and
12 immigrant worker outreach project to assist migrant and immigrant
workers to understand and exercise their rights and
responsibilities with regard to employment in the State.

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