



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1998

Legislative Document

No. 2167

H.P. 1540

House of Representatives, January 26, 1998

Resolve, to Encourage High-performance Work Organizations and Quality Jobs in Rural Maine.

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

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ROWE of Portland. Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, BUNKER of Kossuth Township, CAMERON of Rumford, GAGNE of Buckfield, JONES of Greenville, KNEELAND of Easton, MURPHY of Kennebunk, SIROIS of Caribou.

Sec. 1. Workplace evaluations. Resolved: That any programs 2 providing business assistance conducted by a state agency or through contract with a state agency shall inform applicants for 4 assistance of, and encourage participation in, voluntary workplace evaluation programs conducted by the Maine Quality Center and other nonprofit organizations assisting businesses in б a self-examination process in workplace excellence; and be it 8 further

Sec. 2. Expansion of assistance to rural areas. Resolved: 10 That the Department of Labor shall contract with nonprofit organizations assisting businesses in a self-examination process in workplace 12 excellence to expand those programs to rural areas with high unemployment and underemployment and to place increased emphasis 14 on small businesses and high-performance workplace organizational 16 practices; and be it further

Sec. 3. Rural workplace conversion assistance. Resolved: That the 18 Department of Labor shall establish a program to assist local and 20 regional economic development efforts whose objective is to promote and assist employers and workers in rural areas with 22 high-performance workplace organizational implementing practices. The program may receive funds from public and private 24 The funds of the program must be administered by the sources. Department of Labor, which shall develop criteria for the granting of funds to eligible applicants and shall consult with 26 the Maine Rural Development Council in granting funds; and be it 28 further

- 30 Sec. 4. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of 32 this resolve.
- 34

1998-99

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF 36

38 **Workplace evaluations**

All Other 40

\$100,000

Provides funds to expand 42 funding for voluntary workplace evaluation in rural 44 areas with high unemployment underemployment with 46 and emphasis on small businesses 48 and high-performance workplace practices.

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Rural workplace conversion assistance

All Other

2

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14

16

6	Provides fu	nds for a program
	to assist r	ural businesses to
8	implement	high-performance
	workplace	organizational
10	practices.	

12 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TOTAL

\$350,000

250,000

SUMMARY

18 This bill requires state agencies providing business assistance to inform and encourage applicants for assistance to participate in voluntary workplace evaluation programs conducted 20 by nonprofit organizations such as the Maine Quality Center. It also provides funds for the expansion in rural areas with high 22 unemployment and underemployment of workplace evaluation programs and for assistance in implementing high-performance workplace 24 organizational practices.

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