

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 5-11-05

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 233, L.D. 309, Bill, "An Act To Remove the Sunset on Part-time Unemployment Insurance Benefits"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

Sec. 2. Education and training pilot program. By October 1, 2005, the Department of Labor shall develop within its existing resources an education and training pilot program, referred to in this section as "the program," for unemployed part-time workers as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1192, subsection 3, paragraph A that is designed to enhance the employability and economic security of those workers.

1. Design of program. In designing the program, the department shall:

A. Develop methods to facilitate the participants' efficient transition from receiving compensation under the unemployment compensation insurance system to obtaining new job placements;

B. Minimize the impact on the Unemployment Trust Fund from extending unemployment compensation benefits to unemployed part-time workers and explore methods to stabilize the fund;


C. Maximize the use of its existing resources in order to deliver the education and training services and ensure that necessary support services are made available to participants in the program; and

D. Operate the program through the career center network in partnership with community-based education programs, including local adult education programs, the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System.

2. **Report.** The department shall report on the results of the program to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor by January 15, 2006, together with recommendations on making permanent such an education and training program, any necessary implementing legislation and any additional recommendations that would increase the availability of skilled workers for Maine's businesses. After receipt and review of the report and recommendations, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor shall report out legislation to make permanent an education and training program for unemployed part-time workers.'

SUMMARY

This amendment directs the Department of Labor to develop as a pilot program an education and training program for unemployed part-time workers that is designed to enhance the employability and economic security of those workers. In designing the pilot program, the department is directed to develop methods to facilitate the participants' efficient transition from receiving compensation under the unemployment compensation insurance system to obtaining new job placements and to minimize the impact on the Unemployment Trust Fund from extending unemployment compensation benefits to unemployed part-time workers. The department is directed to report its results to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor by January 15, 2006.

SPONSORED BY: 
(Representative BARSTOW)

TOWN: Gorham

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



Approved: 05/11/05 *MAC*

122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 309

LR 0581(07)

An Act To Remove the Sunset on Part-time Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Fiscal Note for House Amendment "A"

Sponsor: Rep. Barstow

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Current biennium cost increase - Federal Expenditures Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This amendment requires the Department of Labor to establish a pilot program within existing resources to provide education and training for unemployed part-time workers. Requiring that the additional cost to establish the required pilot program be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources will result in less money being available to support the infrastructure of the Career Centers.