

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 750

H.P. 571

House of Representatives, February 13, 2007

An Act To Support Realize!Maine To Attract and Retain Young People in the State's Workforce

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PINGREE of North Haven.
Cosponsored by Senator RAYE of Washington and
Representatives: BARSTOW of Gorham, CAIN of Orono, FISCHER of Presque Isle,
KAENRATH of South Portland, PERCY of Phippsburg, PRATT of Eddington, ROBINSON of
Raymond, Senator: BARTLETT of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 389**, as amended, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §917-A, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

4 **6. Retain and attract young people.** The Maine Development Foundation shall
5 bring together representatives of government, education, business and labor in a focused,
6 coordinated effort to recommend to the Governor and the Legislature and to oversee
7 strategies, including realigning and streamlining the State's economic development
8 policies and resources, and specific efforts to retain and attract youth, which for the
9 purposes of this subsection means persons 15 to 40 years of age. The Maine Development
10 Foundation shall:

11 A. Recommend to the Governor and Legislature and oversee and evaluate the
12 implementation of education policies that focus on meeting the needs of the labor
13 market and the business community and economic development priorities;

14 B. Recommend to the Governor and Legislature and oversee and evaluate the
15 implementation of short-term and long-term strategies to retain and attract youth by
16 improving coordination and reducing fragmentation within and between labor,
17 education, business and economic development sectors. Specific responsibilities in
18 this area include:

19 (1) Recommending a comprehensive action plan for economic development and
20 education policy initiatives specifically designed to expand opportunities for
21 youth;

22 (2) Maintaining a publicly accessible website that is a comprehensive
23 clearinghouse of information regarding higher education, career opportunities
24 and jobs available in the State, including the high-growth and high-paying jobs in
25 the State. The website must target current and prospective students ages 20 to 40
26 and must provide career, living, social, cultural and recreational opportunities,
27 including professional networking and mentoring; internship programs; and
28 outreach and recruitment for youth;

29 (3) Recommending and overseeing the implementation of an initiative to provide
30 all high school students in the State with information about higher education and
31 career opportunities in the State. The initiative must include information
32 regarding public and private postsecondary education programs in the State,
33 career paths, required education and training and lists of high-growth
34 occupations, high-paying jobs and occupational shortages; and

35 (4) Recommending and overseeing the implementation of a program to bring
36 volunteers from business and government to high schools throughout the State to
37 provide students with information about career opportunities and the education
38 required for different careers;

39 C. Assist the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College
40 System in their development of a comprehensive plan for higher education that will
41 meet the needs of the State's economy and business community for research and

1 development, commercialization of products and services, emerging technologies and
2 workforce training;

3 D. Review the need for and develop proposals for funding to develop professional
4 health care education and training at the University of Maine System and the Maine
5 Community College System that will increase employment opportunities throughout
6 the State; and

7 E. Monitor the development and implementation of initiatives undertaken by state
8 agencies and organizations to create opportunities for youth through economic
9 development, education, employment and other strategies.

10 Nothing in this subsection may be construed to provide the Maine Development
11 Foundation with any authority regarding the policies and resources of the Maine
12 Community College System or the University of Maine System or the board of trustees of
13 either system.

14 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
15 allocations are made.

16 **MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

17 **Maine Development Foundation**

18 Initiative: Provides funds to support and increase activities, programs and outreach at the
19 Realize!Maine program under the auspices of the Maine Development Foundation.

20			
21	GENERAL FUND	2007-08	2008-09
22	All Other	\$100,000	\$100,000
23			
24	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill augments the efforts of Realize!Maine, under the auspices of the Maine
27 Development Foundation, to retain and attract young people to live, work and recreate in
28 Maine. The bill also repeals the "S.W.A.T. team" law and incorporates the responsibilities
29 formerly set out in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 389 into the
30 responsibilities of the Maine Development Foundation.