

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1432

H.P. 1053

House of Representatives, April 7, 2011

**An Act To Expand Apprenticeship Programs and Scholarship
Programs with Funding from Identification of Ineffective Economic
Development Tax Incentives**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative STUCKEY of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator ALFOND of Cumberland and Representatives: FLEMINGS of Bar Harbor, GILBERT of Jay, HERBIG of Belfast, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senators: JACKSON of Aroostook, PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§5-A, ¶P** is enacted to read:

3 P. The committee shall establish and implement a program to promote and establish
4 apprenticeships in high-wage, high-demand occupations. The program must be
5 designed to address barriers to the use of apprenticeship; improve access to
6 apprenticeship for women, minorities and people with low income; and provide a
7 more efficient method for employers and workers to use apprenticeship as a talent
8 development strategy customized to meet their needs. The committee shall develop
9 and implement the program within the limit of funds available for this purpose and
10 shall:

11 (1) Collaborate with industry associations in the State to identify opportunities
12 for apprenticeships that meet the needs of the industries covered by those
13 associations and that are in high-wage, high-demand jobs;

14 (2) Identify and develop specific requirements and qualifications for entry into
15 apprenticeships and establish standards for corresponding preapprenticeship
16 skills training programs that result in an industry-recognized credential certifying
17 that the individual is ready to enter apprenticeship;

18 (3) Collaborate with the Department of Labor's career centers, workforce
19 investment boards, a statewide system of centers that supports access to
20 education and the workforce for women, a national organization that prepares
21 women for transportation construction jobs, the Department of Labor, Bureau of
22 Rehabilitation Services and other appropriate partners to identify, assess and
23 prepare a pool of qualified candidates seeking to enter apprenticeship;

24 (4) Using funds appropriated to support this paragraph, enroll in the Competitive
25 Skills Scholarship Program established in section 2033 all individuals who are
26 eligible for services under that program and who are engaged in an
27 apprenticeship or preapprenticeship skills training program under this paragraph;

28 (5) Provide for funds available under this paragraph to be used for on-the-job
29 training, tuition, services available under the Competitive Skills Scholarship
30 Program and other services necessary to implement this paragraph;

31 (6) Enter into formal agreements with industry associations and employers to
32 hire apprentices directly from the pool of individuals who have successfully
33 completed a preapprenticeship skills training program under this paragraph; and

34 (7) Register all newly employed apprentices with nationally recognized
35 apprenticeship programs and ensure that the programs meet both state and federal
36 apprenticeship standards.

37 **Sec. 2. Apprenticeship program.** The Department of Labor shall expand
38 apprenticeship programs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 2006,
39 subsection 5-A, including apprenticeships for high-wage, high-demand occupations under
40 Title 26, section 2006, subsection 5-A, paragraph P, and increase the availability of
41 scholarships for those apprenticeship programs under the Competitive Skills Scholarship

1 Program under Title 26, section 2033 to the extent permitted by revenue savings
2 identified under section 3.

3 **Sec. 3. High-demand allied health care training programs.** The Maine
4 Community College System shall develop and implement a plan to expand programs for
5 training in high-demand allied health care occupations at all campuses of the Maine
6 Community College System. The plan must provide for the creation of at least 2 classes
7 of 10 students at each community college campus in the first year of the programs under
8 the plan and 4 classes of 10 students at each campus in the 2nd year of the programs. The
9 plan must provide that 2/3 of the enrollment in the programs must be reserved for
10 participants in the apprenticeship program established under the Maine Revised Statutes,
11 Title 26, section 2006, subsection 5-A, paragraph P and 2/3 of the students from the
12 apprenticeship program must be eligible for the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program
13 under Title 26, section 2033. The cost of implementing the plan under this section must
14 be paid 1/3 by the Maine Community College System from existing funding and 2/3 from
15 the General Fund. For the purposes of this section, "high-demand allied health care
16 occupations" includes but is not limited to phlebotomists, medical laboratory technicians,
17 medical technicians, radiology technicians, respiratory technicians, surgical technicians,
18 physical therapists, occupational therapists and pharmacy technicians.

19 **Sec. 4. Funding.** The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services
20 shall contract with the University of Maine System to perform an independent analysis of
21 the tax expenditures identified as economic development incentives, as defined in the
22 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13070-J, to evaluate the effectiveness of those
23 incentives in fostering economic development in the State. The analysis must identify
24 how economic development incentives can be modified to provide up to \$10,000,000 in
25 revenue savings that are adequate to fund the expansion of the apprenticeship programs
26 under Title 26, section 2006, subsection 5-A and the expansion of the Competitive Skills
27 Scholarship Program established under Title 26, section 2033. The commissioner shall
28 submit the analysis and the commissioner's recommendations to the Joint Standing
29 Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development by January 15,
30 2012.

31 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made.

33 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE**

34 **Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556**

35 Initiative: Provides funds for 2/3 of the cost to implement a plan to expand training
36 programs for high-demand allied health care occupations.

37

38	GENERAL FUND	2011-12	2012-13
39	All Other	\$840,000	\$1,680,000

1

SUMMARY

2 This bill requires the Maine Jobs Council, through the Standing Committee on
3 Apprenticeship, to establish apprenticeships in high-wage, high-demand occupations and
4 requires the Department of Labor to increase the availability of apprenticeship programs
5 and competitive skills scholarships for students in apprenticeship programs. The bill also
6 requires the Maine Community College System to expand training programs for
7 high-demand allied health care occupations. The Commissioner of Administrative and
8 Financial Services is directed to contract with the University of Maine System to evaluate
9 tax expenditures identified as economic development incentives for effectiveness and to
10 identify up to \$10,000,000 in revenue savings to fund the expansions in apprenticeships
11 and scholarships.