

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 767

H.P. 520

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Create Jobs in Aroostook and Washington Counties

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McELWEE of Caribou.
Cosponsored by Senator EDGECOMB of Aroostook and
Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, HANINGTON of Lincoln, LONG of Sherman,
MAKER of Calais, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, TURNER of Burlington, WALLACE of
Dexter, Senator: BURNS of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5250-R, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Call center.** "Call center" means a business enterprise that employs for the
4 purpose of customer service:

5 A. Fifty or more employees, excluding part-time employees; or

6 B. Fifty or more employees who in the aggregate work at least 1,500 hours per week,
7 excluding overtime hours.

8 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5250-R, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

9 **3-A. Part-time employee.** "Part-time employee" means an employee who works an
10 average of less than 20 hours per week.

11 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §5250-U** is enacted to read:

12 **§5250-U. Exceptions for call centers**

13 **1. Call center.** The commissioner may certify a call center located in Aroostook
14 County or Washington County as a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business
15 under section 5250-O if the call center satisfies all of the Pine Tree Development Zone
16 program requirements of this chapter, except that the call center does not need to satisfy
17 the employee income requirements of section 5250-I, subsection 18.

18 **2. Application for tax benefits.** A call center may apply to the commissioner for
19 certification to receive Pine Tree Development Zone benefits pursuant to subsection 1.
20 Upon review and determination by the commissioner that the call center satisfies the
21 criteria under subsection 1, the commissioner shall issue a certificate of qualification for
22 Pine Tree Development Zone benefits.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill provides an exception to the Pine Tree Development Zone program
25 employee income requirements for call centers located in Aroostook and Washington
26 counties.