# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

**Legislative Document** 

No. 979

H.P. 676

House of Representatives, March 18, 2015

Resolve, To Provide for Workforce Development in the Forest Products Industry

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester.

Cosponsored by President THIBODEAU of Waldo and

Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, GIDEON of Freeport, HANINGTON of Lincoln, LONG of Sherman, McCABE of Skowhegan, Senators: ALFOND of Cumberland, PATRICK of Oxford.

Sec. 1. Department of Labor to conduct pilot program. Resolved: That the Department of Labor shall conduct a pilot program to provide funding to employers in the forest products industry who hire a high school graduate or holder of a general equivalency diploma who is 18 to 20 years of age and not enrolled in a postsecondary education program at the time of hiring. The program provides, for a period of up to one year, an amount up to 50% of the full-time or part-time annual salary or, if after hiring an eligible person the employer sends the eligible person to a postsecondary education or business training program, employer-paid stipend of an eligible person hired by an employer in the forest products industry. The percentage of funding for an employer under the pilot program is determined by funds available to the department. An employer who qualifies for this program is responsible for recruiting and hiring a student eligible to participate in the program; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

#### LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

### **Bureau of Employment Services**

Initiative: Provides funds for the forest products workforce development pilot program.

18	GENERAL FUND	2014-15	2015-16
19	All Other	\$0	\$100,000
20		<u></u>	
21	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<del></del>	\$100,000

22 SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Labor to conduct a pilot program to provide funding to employers in the forest products industry who hire high school graduates or holders of general equivalency diplomas 18 to 20 years of age. The program provides an amount equal to 50% of the students' annual salaries or employer-paid stipends for attending a postsecondary education or business training program.