

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 2/16/16

**LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
127TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 406, L.D. 1137, Bill, "An Act To Promote Reemployment of Unemployed Workers"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Promote Workforce Development'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**'Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** due to Maine's aging population, the State faces a workforce shortage as an increasing number of workers are retiring and fewer people are available to replace them; and

**Whereas,** more workers need to be trained to meet the needs of Maine businesses with a skilled labor force; and

**Whereas,** the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program is one of the Department of Labor's job training programs specifically created to train workers for jobs in high-demand, high-wage careers with a dedicated source of funding; and

**Whereas,** the Department of Labor is limited in the amount of funding it can use to train eligible workers because of an annual cap on administration costs and the immediate removal of that cap would allow the department to provide more training to individuals within the current calendar year; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 502, Pt. O, §1, is  
2 further amended to read:

3           **2. Program established.** The department shall establish and administer an  
4 employment training program known as the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program.  
5 The purpose of the program is to provide individuals with access to education, training  
6 and support leading to skilled, well-compensated jobs with anticipated high employment  
7 demand, to improve the economic well-being of the participants in the program and to  
8 provide employers with a skilled labor force in accordance with the provisions of this  
9 section.

10 The commissioner may expend funds through the department's career centers from the  
11 fund for the costs of education, training and support in accordance with subsection 6, for  
12 career counseling and for the administration of the program. Career counseling must  
13 include developing a plan and assisting a participant in accessing the support necessary  
14 for the participant to participate in the plan. The commissioner shall establish a limit on  
15 or a formula that limits the proportion of program funds that are expended on career  
16 counseling and for administration; ~~except that, beginning with fiscal year 2014-15, the~~  
17 ~~commissioner may not expend, on an annualized basis, more than \$550,000 of the annual~~  
18 ~~revenue to the fund for administrative costs and for career counseling.~~

19           **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§10**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 352, Pt. A, §3, is  
20 amended to read:

21           **10. Monitoring, evaluation and annual report.** The department shall implement a  
22 comprehensive evaluation strategy that evaluates the fund, using both quantitative and  
23 qualitative data and including an analysis of the return on investment in the fund. The  
24 evaluation must consider, at a minimum, the following factors: the value of total  
25 compensation, including, but not limited to, health insurance and other benefits to those  
26 participating in training; the impact of the program on the Unemployment Compensation  
27 Fund; the impact on productivity and performance for employers; and the impact on  
28 meeting the demand for skilled workers in industries in this State. The evaluation must  
29 measure the impact of the program over time, including a longitudinal analysis that  
30 captures productivity and other outcomes related to the program. The department must  
31 submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
32 labor matters by February 1st of each year on the status of the program and on the  
33 evaluation data collected and analyzed. The report also must include the formula or limit  
34 established by the commissioner pursuant to subsection 2 to limit the proportion of  
35 program funds expended on career counseling and administration and the amount of  
36 funds expended for these purposes.

37           **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
38 allocations are made.

39           **LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

40           **Employment Services Activity 0852**

41 Initiative: Allocates funds for 2 limited-period CareerCenter Consultant positions to  
42 support efforts to provide job training for qualified individuals under the Competitive  
43 Skills Scholarship Program.





# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1137

LR 1374(02)

## An Act To Promote Reemployment of Unemployed Workers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (S-360)  
Committee: Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	Projections FY 2017-18	Projections FY 2018-19
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund	\$74,328	\$149,062	\$0	\$0

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation removes the cap on the amount of funds in the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund within the Department of Labor that can be spent for administrative and career counseling services annually. According to the Department of Labor, eliminating the cap will allow for an increase in career counseling and job training services that the Department can provide to individuals qualified under the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program. The Department has requested, and this bill includes, Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund allocations of \$74,328 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$149,062 in fiscal year 2016-17 for 2 limited-period CareerCenter Consultant positions and related All Other costs to support the additional career counseling and job training efforts. Sufficient funds exist within the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund to support the costs of the 2 positions over the current biennium without requiring an increase in the contribution rate applied to employers' taxable payroll.