MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1373

Date: 6|16|15

Majority

(Filing No. H-442)

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

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5 **STATE OF MAINE**

6 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

7 **127TH LEGISLATURE**

8 **FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 932, L.D. 1373, Bill, "An Act To
10 Create the Put ME To Work Program"

11 Amend the bill in Part A in section 1 in §12730 in subsection 2 in paragraph B in the
12 last line (page 1, line 25 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "jobs; and" and inserting
13 the following: 'jobs or in an industry in which technology or work practices have
14 significantly changed to require training to assist new workers to acquire needed skills or
15 incumbent workers to remain current and competitive;'

16 Amend the bill in Part A in section 1 in §12730 in subsection 2 in paragraph C in the
17 last line (page 1, line 29 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "employment." and
18 inserting the following: 'employment; and'

19 Amend the bill in Part A in section 1 in §12730 in subsection 2 by inserting after
20 paragraph C the following:

21 'D. In order to participate, a business must agree to hire a person who successfully
22 completes the job training program at a post-training wage that is at least $2.50 per
23 hour more than the minimum hourly wage rate established in state law and to provide
24 successful incumbent worker trainees with an increase in the hourly wage to meet or
25 exceed the median wage for that occupation in the State as identified by the Center
26 for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor.'

27 Amend the bill in Part A in section 1 in §12730 in subsection 3 in the 3rd line (page
28 1, line 32 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "training program." the following: 'If
29 the job training program includes academic credit, the program may coordinate with the
30 financial aid office of the sponsoring postsecondary education institution to deliver an
31 award to an individual student; the award must be used to assist with all or partial unmet
32 expenses for tuition, fees or books after any existing financial aid resources are used.'

33 Amend the bill in Part A in section 1 in §12730 by striking out all of subsection 4
34 (page 1, lines 34 and 35 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

35 '4. **Rules.** The Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System shall
36 amend or adopt as necessary the centers' operational policies and procedures in order to

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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implement the provisions of this section. In selecting awardees for the program, the board of trustees shall consider:

A. Whether the business provides fringe benefits and what those fringe benefits are;

B. Economic impacts to the local or regional economy;

C. The ability of the business to leverage other resources both in the short term and the long term;

D. The record of the business in training individuals who have historically faced barriers to employment and individuals who are unemployed or underemployed;

E. Occupational outcomes of individuals who have been trained by the business; and

F. Factors determined appropriate by the board of trustees.

Recruitment of prospective trainees and preliminary screening and testing for funded partnerships must be done in conjunction with the Department of Labor's career centers, as well as with state job training providers, industry partners and other referring organizations as appropriate and consistent with the program.

To be considered eligible for training under this program, applicants must meet the specific training program's related academic and admissions standards. Individuals that do not meet threshold academic standards may be referred to available community remediation services. Individuals enrolled in the program must maintain satisfactory academic performance and meet all requirements in order to continue enrollment in the program.'

Amend the bill in Part A by striking out all of sections 2 and 3 and inserting the following:

'**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE

Community College System - Maine Quality Centers 0804

Initiative: Provides funds for needs-based tuition assistance and grants for persons participating in the Put ME to Work Program and to be used to match funding or in-kind contributions by businesses participating in the Put ME to Work Program.

GENERAL FUND	**2015-16**	**2016-17**
All Other	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Amend the bill by striking out all of Part B.

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

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SUMMARY

2   This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on
3 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, eliminates the $100,000
4 funding in the bill for the Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative and instead adds
5 it to the appropriation for the Maine Community College System's Maine Quality Centers
6 for a total of $1,000,000 in each year of the fiscal biennium. The Maine Quality Centers
7 appropriation is consolidated to include use both for tuition assistance for individuals
8 participating in workforce training and to match funding and contributions from
9 participating businesses.

10   The amendment directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College
11 System to adopt necessary policies and procedures for the Maine Quality Centers,
12 including consideration of at least 5 specific factors. It also requires program participants
13 to use existing financial aid resources available through their sponsoring postsecondary
14 education institution before using program resources, which may be used only for unmet
15 expenses for tuition, fees or books.

16   Additionally, the amendment requires participating employers under the Put ME to
17 Work Program to hire successful trainees at a rate at least $2.50 per hour more than the
18 minimum hourly wage rate as set in Maine statute and to pay incumbent worker trainees
19 an hourly wage that meets or exceeds the median wage for that occupation as identified
20 by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor.

21   The amendment eliminates the provision of the bill that allows employers to make
22 voluntary donations to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund.

23   **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

24   **(See attached)**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1373   LR 1112(02)

An Act To Create the Put ME To Work Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment 'A' (H-442)
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
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the Maine Quality Centers within the Maine Community College System for needs-based tuition assistance and grants for persons participating in the Put ME to Work Program and to match funding or in-kind contributions by businesses participating in the program.

Additional costs to the Maine Community College System to amend or adopt policies and procedures to implement the Put ME to Work Program can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.