

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 scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Minor

smc
R O F S
2

L.D. 1373

Date: 6/16/15

Minority

(Filing No. H-443)

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 26 MRSA c. 25, sub-c. 6 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 6

PUT ME TO WORK PROGRAM

§2041. Put ME to Work Program

1. Establishment; purpose. The Put ME to Work Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Services, referred to in this section as "the bureau," and the State Workforce Investment Board. The program must facilitate the establishment of job training programs in this State by working with private employers, adult education providers and postsecondary education institutions. The job training programs in the program must provide training to prepare workers for jobs in high-demand fields.

2. Training criteria for fewer than 5 workers for a single employer or 2 employers. The bureau shall work with private employers and industry sector partners to determine the demand for jobs and the skills needed for those jobs and with adult education, training providers and postsecondary education institutions to provide the appropriate education and training. A single employer applicant or 2 employers training fewer than 5 persons are eligible to use the program if the training program meets the following criteria:

A. Training is for prospective, new hire or incumbent workers. Prospective worker trainees must be guaranteed a job interview with at least one of the participating

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1
2
R O F S

employers upon meeting the pretraining qualifications and the successful completion of training;

3 B. The employer or employers work with career centers within the bureau to select,
4 hire and train individuals from a pool of qualified candidates for employment as full-
5 time regular employees at the end of training;

6 C. The job training program must provide education or training for employment in a
7 trade or industry with a significant demand for skilled labor, either statewide or in a
8 region in this State, that has been identified by the Center for Workforce Research
9 and Information within the Department of Labor as providing employment for high-
10 compensation jobs or in an industry in which technology or work practices have
11 significantly changed to require training to assist new workers to acquire needed
12 skills or incumbent workers to remain current and competitive;

13 D. The participating employers agree to hire persons who successfully complete the
14 job training program at a post-training wage of at least \$2.50 per hour more than the
15 minimum hourly wage rate as set in state law and to provide successful incumbent
16 worker trainees with an increase in the hourly wage to meet or exceed the median
17 wage for that occupation in this State as identified by the Center for Workforce
18 Research and Information within the Department of Labor; and

19 E. A person who successfully completes the job training program must be awarded a
20 certificate, degree or similar credential that is universally recognized by the
21 employer's trade association or industry.

22 The bureau shall leverage existing workforce funds and training programs and providers
23 to assist employers in providing training. Priority for funding must be given to employers
24 that contribute at least a 50% or higher in-kind or direct training cost match.

25 3. Industry partnership criteria. The bureau shall work with an industry
26 partnership to determine the demand for jobs and the skills needed for those jobs and with
27 adult education, training providers and postsecondary education institutions to develop or
28 provide the appropriate education and training. For purposes of this subsection, one or
29 more employers providing training for 5 or more workers, or a recognized trade
30 association or industry convener, is considered an industry partnership under the
31 program. The following criteria apply.

32 A. Training must be for prospective, new hire or incumbent workers. Prospective
33 worker trainees must be guaranteed a job interview with at least one of the
34 participating employers upon meeting the pretraining qualifications and the
35 successful completion of training.

36 B. The employer or employers shall work with career centers within the bureau to
37 select, hire and train individuals from a pool of qualified candidates for employment
38 as full-time regular employees at the end of training.

39 C. The job training program must provide education or training for employment in a
40 trade or industry with a significant demand for skilled labor, either statewide or in a
41 region in this State, that has been identified by the Center for Workforce Research
42 and Information within the Department of Labor as providing employment for high-
43 compensation jobs or in an industry where technology or work practices have

1
2
R O F S

significantly changed to require training to assist new workers to acquire needed skills or incumbent workers to remain current and competitive.

3 D. The participating employers must agree to hire persons who successfully
4 complete the job training program at a post-training wage of at least \$2.50 per hour
5 more than the minimum hourly wage rate as set in state law and to provide successful
6 incumbent worker trainees with an increase in the hourly wage to meet or exceed the
7 median wage for that occupation in this State as identified by the Center for
8 Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor.

9 E. A person who successfully completes the job training program must be awarded a
10 certificate, degree or similar credential that is universally recognized by the trade
11 association or industry.

12 The bureau shall leverage existing workforce funds and training programs and providers
13 to assist employers in providing training.

14 Priority for funding must be given to employers or industry partnerships that contribute at
15 least a 50% or higher in-kind or direct training cost match and provide evidence of at
16 least 2 of the following criteria: provision of fringe benefits; ongoing skill development
17 or access to career pathways; an increase in the number of net new hires as a result of
18 training; positive economic effects on the local or regional economy; short-term and long-
19 term leveraging of other resources; training of individuals who have historically faced
20 barriers to employment and individuals who are unemployed or underemployed; return
21 on investment for the State, region, industry and trainees; and other factors described in
22 the state workforce development plan of the State Workforce Investment Board.

23 4. Administration. The program is administered jointly by the Department of Labor
24 and the State Workforce Investment Board under rules and operating procedures adopted
25 by the Commissioner of Labor and the State Workforce Investment Board.
26 Administrative costs are limited to 5% of program funds.

27 5. Review of proposals. An application for funding under the program for job
28 training as described in subsection 2 must be reviewed on an as-needed basis by a review
29 team made up of the program director of the bureau, the director of the bureau and the
30 director of the State Workforce Investment Board. Awards must be prioritized using
31 available funding. The review team, at its discretion, may deny an application and
32 connect applicants to an alternative funding source if available or recommend an
33 alternative industry partnership structure.

34 Proposals meeting the industry partnership criteria described in subsection 3 must be
35 reviewed by the State Workforce Investment Board. Voting members of the State
36 Workforce Investment Board must rank competing proposals by the criteria in subsection
37 3, with available funding taken into consideration when determining final awards so as to
38 maximize training for the most individuals and return on investment.

39 The State Workforce Investment Board, at its discretion, may deny an application and
40 connect applicants to an alternative funding source if available or recommend an
41 alternative industry partnership structure.

42 6. Eligibility for funding. Applicants eligible to receive funding from the program
43 include, but are not limited to, employers, regional and local economic development

R OF S

1 agencies or partnerships, community-based organizations, job training service providers,
2 registered apprenticeship service providers, local adult education providers and
3 postsecondary education institutions.

4 **7. Training.** Training provided under this section is considered approved training
5 under the unemployment insurance laws and the laws regarding dislocated workers
6 administered by the Department of Labor.

7 Training funds authorized under this section must be paid to the employer or training
8 provider on a reimbursement basis.

9 Denied applicants may reapply in the following fiscal year.

10 **8. Report.** For any year in which the program is funded, the Commissioner of Labor
11 and the director of the State Workforce Investment Board shall provide to the joint
12 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research
13 and economic development matters a report by March 1st of the following year, which
14 must include, for each business assisted under this subchapter, the name and location of
15 the business, the number of individuals trained or retrained, the dollar amount expended
16 and, when applicable, the number of new jobs created.

17 **9. Rules.** Rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter are routine technical rules as
18 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

19 **10. Nonlapsing funds.** Any unencumbered balance of General Fund appropriations
20 remaining at the end of each fiscal year in the program may not lapse but must be carried
21 forward to be used for the same purposes.

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

24 **LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

25 **State Workforce Investment Board Z158**

26 Initiative: Provides funds to be used to match funding or in-kind contributions by
27 businesses participating in the Put ME to Work Program.

28	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
29	All Other	\$475,000	\$712,500
30			
31	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$475,000</u>	<u>\$712,500</u>

32 **State Workforce Investment Board Z158**

33 Initiative: Provides funds to support a portion of the cost of one Labor Program Specialist
34 position to manage the Put ME to Work Program.

1
R O F S

2	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
3	Personal Services	\$25,000	\$37,500
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>\$37,500</u>

5	LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF		
6	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2015-16	2016-17
7			
8	GENERAL FUND	\$500,000	\$750,000
9			
10	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$500,000</u>	<u>\$750,000</u>

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This amendment, which is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on
 14 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, strikes the bill and replaces it
 15 with a workforce training program to be administered jointly by the Department of Labor
 16 and the State Workforce Investment Board.

17 The amendment replaces the requirement in the bill that participating businesses
 18 provide at least 50% of the cost of the program with a preference for such businesses
 19 when granting applications. Additionally, for industry partnership applicants, 7 factors
 20 are also taken into account when reviewing applications.

21 The amendment requires participating employers to hire trainees at a rate at least
 22 \$2.50 per hour more than the state-mandated minimum hourly wage rate and to pay
 23 incumbent worker trainees with an hourly wage that meets or exceeds the median wage
 24 for that occupation as identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information
 25 within the Department of Labor.

26 The amendment eliminates the \$100,000 funding per fiscal year in the bill for the
 27 Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative and the \$900,000 per fiscal year funding in
 28 the bill for the Maine Community College System's Maine Quality Centers. Funding is
 29 instead directed to the State Workforce Investment Board at a level of \$500,000 in the
 30 first fiscal year and \$750,000 in the 2nd fiscal year. This funding is to be used to match
 31 contributions of participating businesses and to support a portion of the cost of one Labor
 32 Program Specialist position to manage the Put ME to Work Program.

33 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

34 (See attached)



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1373

LR 1112(03)

An Act To Create the Put ME To Work Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment **B (H-443)**
 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	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes General Fund appropriations totaling \$500,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the State Workforce Investment Board within the Department of Labor for the Put ME to Work Program. Of this amount, \$25,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$37,500 in fiscal year 2016-17 is appropriated to the board to support a portion of the cost of one Labor Program Specialist position to manage the program and \$475,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 and \$712,500 in fiscal year 2016-17 is appropriated to be used to match funding or in-kind contributions by businesses participating in the Put Me to Work Program.