

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1373

H.P. 932

House of Representatives, April 28, 2015

An Act To Create the Put ME To Work Program

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker EVES of North Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator CUSHING of Penobscot and
Representatives: FARRIN of Norridgewock, HERBIG of Belfast, PETERSON of Rumford,
SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, STANLEY of Medway, Senators:
PATRICK of Oxford, VOLK of Cumberland.

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

2 **PART A**

3 **Sec. A-1. 20-A MRSA §12730** is enacted to read:

4 **§12730. Put ME to Work Program**

5 **1. Establishment; purpose.** The Put ME to Work Program, referred to in this
6 section as "the program," is established within the centers. The program must facilitate
7 the establishment of job training programs at postsecondary institutions of higher
8 education in this State by working with private businesses and postsecondary institutions
9 of higher education.

10 **2. Job training programs; criteria.** The job training programs in the program must
11 provide training to prepare workers for jobs in high-demand fields. The centers shall
12 work with private businesses to determine the demand for jobs and the skills needed for
13 those jobs and with postsecondary institutions of higher education to determine the ability
14 of those institutions to provide the appropriate education and training, including teaching
15 faculty and any necessary infrastructure. A qualified job training program must meet the
16 following criteria:

17 A. Support of at least 50% of the start-up costs for the job training program must be
18 provided by a business or group of businesses that chooses to participate in a job
19 training program. The support may be provided through funds or through an in-kind
20 contribution, such as equipment or teaching faculty;

21 B. The job training program must provide education or training for employment in a
22 trade or industry with a significant demand for skilled labor either statewide or in a
23 region that has been identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information
24 within the Department of Labor as providing employment for high-compensation
25 jobs; and

26 C. A person who successfully completes the job training program must be awarded a
27 certificate, degree or similar credential that is universally recognized by the trade or
28 industry that meets the requirements of paragraph B in which the person intends to
29 seek employment.

30 **3. Financial aid; funding.** The centers shall make available needs-based
31 scholarships, grants and other financial aid to persons participating in a qualified job
32 training program. The centers may accept funding from private businesses and other
33 interests for this purpose.

34 **4. Rules.** The centers shall adopt routine technical rules, as described in Title 5,
35 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, to implement the provisions of this section.

36 **Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
37 allocations are made.

38 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE**

1 **Community College System - Maine Quality Centers 0804**
 2 Initiative: Provides funds for needs-based tuition assistance and grants for persons
 3 participating in the Put ME to Work Program.

4	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
5	All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000
6			
7	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

8 **Community College System - Maine Quality Centers 0804**
 9 Initiative: Provides funds to be used to match funding or in-kind contributions by
 10 businesses participating in the Put ME to Work Program.

11	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
12	All Other	\$650,000	\$650,000
13			
14	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$650,000</u>	<u>\$650,000</u>

15	COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF		
16	TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE		
17	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2015-16	2016-17
18			
19	GENERAL FUND	\$900,000	\$900,000
20			
21	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$900,000</u>	<u>\$900,000</u>

22 **Sec. A-3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 23 allocations are made.

24 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

25 **Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative N186**

26 Initiative: Provides funds for one Public Service Coordinator position and related All
 27 Other costs needed to carry out the responsibilities associated with the Industry
 28 Partnership Assistance Collaborative.

29	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
30	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
31	Personal Services	\$75,978	\$79,739
32	All Other	\$24,022	\$20,261
33			
34	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

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PART B

Sec. B-1. 26 MRSA §1166, sub-§6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. Voluntary contributions. In addition to the fund contributions required pursuant to subsection 5, an employer may make a voluntary contribution to the fund. These contributions must be segregated and used exclusively by the commissioner for the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program established in section 2033 and for the costs of administering the fund.

SUMMARY

This bill assists Maine residents to obtain highly skilled, high-demand, livable-wage jobs by creating a new jobs training program and improving and funding existing jobs training programs.

1. Part A establishes the Put ME to Work Program in the Maine Quality Centers to facilitate the establishment of job training programs at postsecondary institutions of higher education in this State by working with private businesses and postsecondary institutions of higher education to provide training to prepare workers for jobs in high-demand fields. In order to participate in the program, a business or group of businesses is required to provide at least 50% of the cost of the program, which may be through in-kind contributions. Part A provides \$250,000 for needs-based tuition assistance, scholarships and grants for students in the program and \$650,000 to match funding or in-kind contributions by businesses participating in the program.

Part A also provides \$100,000 to the Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative to fund a position and associated costs within the collaborative.

2. Part B allows employers to make voluntary donations to the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund. These donations would be in addition to the required employer contributions and would be used for the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program.