

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1500

S.P. 525

In Senate, April 20, 2017

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**An Act To Modernize Data Collection and Reporting and  
Information Access for the Department of Labor**

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Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development  
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VOLK of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative VACHON of Scarborough and  
Senator: LANGLEY of Hancock, Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, BATES of Westbrook,  
FECTEAU of Biddeford, LOCKMAN of Amherst, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, STETKIS of  
Canaan.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1401-B, sub-§1, ¶B**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c.  
3 467, §5, is amended to read:

4 B. The commissioner shall appoint to serve at the commissioner's pleasure:

- 5 (1) Deputy Commissioner;
- 6 (2) Director of Legislative Affairs;
- 7 (3) Director of Operations;
- 8 (4) Director of Communications;
- 9 (5) Director, Bureau of Labor Standards;
- 10 (6) Director, Bureau of Employment Services; ~~and~~
- 11 (7) Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services; and
- 12 (8) Director, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation.

13 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1401-B, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. G, §15, is  
14 repealed.

15 **Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §1401-B, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. A, §30  
16 and amended by c. 526, §14, is repealed.

17 **Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §1401-B, sub-§§7 and 8** are enacted to read:

18 **7. Data collection and reporting.** The commissioner, in partnership with the  
19 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and other appropriate  
20 federal and state agencies, shall collect and make publicly available, including in  
21 electronic formats, data related to employment and unemployment in the State, including  
22 labor force participation, occupations, industries and demographics, employment  
23 outcomes of training programs and other information relating to the programs under the  
24 department's jurisdiction, including a longitudinal workforce data system. The collection  
25 and publication of data under this subsection must be funded by the federal Bureau of  
26 Labor Statistics and other federal and state agencies.

27 **8. Availability of employment law information.** The commissioner shall make  
28 available information on employment laws applicable to both workers and employers in  
29 accessible formats, including electronic formats, and provide access to such information  
30 to all individuals enrolled in the department's programs.

31 **Sec. 5. 26 MRSA c. 25, sub-c. 3**, as amended, is repealed.

32 **Sec. 6. 26 MRSA §2173**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 408, §3 and amended by PL  
33 2003, c. 114, §§24 and 25, is repealed.

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## SUMMARY

This bill conforms the laws identifying the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Labor relating to the collection and use of data with the Department of Labor's current practices of collecting and publishing data and allows for this information as well as information on labor laws to be made available in various formats, including in electronic formats. The bill adds the Director of the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation to the list of employees who are appointed by the Commissioner of Labor and who serve at the commissioner's pleasure. The bill repeals sections of law regarding the availability of information to trainees. The bill also repeals the Nontraditional Occupation Act.