

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/11/19 Majority

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 468, L.D. 647, Bill, "An Act To Attract, Educate and Retain New State Residents To Strengthen the Workforce"

Amend the bill in section 1 in §8614 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 1, lines 14 to 22 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

2. Coordinator. Each welcome center under subsection 1 must employ a full-time coordinator. The coordinator shall:

A. Administer the center;

B. Collaborate and work in conjunction with the department including the office to carry out the purposes of this section, including developing a program or series of programs designed to serve the needs of initiative participants; and

C. Make efforts to secure additional funding from public and private sources, including donations, grants or public-private partnerships, to provide ongoing funding of the welcome center, as needed to support ongoing operations or to expand capacity.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §8614 in subsection 4 in the first line (page 2, line 2 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "may" and inserting the following: 'shall'

Amend the bill in section 3 in the 3rd line (page 2, line 12 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "training program" the following: ', including training classes,'

Amend the bill in section 3 by striking out all of subsections 1 and 2 (page 2, lines 14 to 39 and page 3, lines 1 to 15 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

1. Program requirements. The Department of Education's office of adult education and family literacy, referred to in this section as "the office," shall administer a 2-year program. The program must prepare immigrants for identified workforce needs of employers in the State to accelerate entry into livable wage employment and employment advancement and to enhance employer retention of the immigrants by combining vocation-specific English language acquisition with training in the specific vocational

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROFS

1 areas required by the employers. Training classes must be provided and funded pursuant
2 to a grant process under subsection 2.

3 **2. Training grants.** The office shall establish a statewide competitive grant process
4 to carry out the purposes of subsection 1. The amount of a grant under this subsection is
5 determined by the office based upon the needs of the area to be served and the availability
6 of funding. The office shall consider grants to cover all areas of the State with emphasis
7 on areas with large immigrant populations or where there is a need for skilled workers
8 that training under this section may provide. An eligible proposal for a grant under this
9 subsection must include:

10 A. Intensive vocation-specific English language and vocabulary classes for
11 participating potential, newly hired and incumbent employees. For the purposes of
12 the grant program, "potential employee" means an individual seeking to change the
13 individual's employment, to find new employment or to acquire new skills and
14 "incumbent employee" means an employee already working for the employer either
15 as an employee or through placement by a staffing agency;

16 B. Intensive workforce training classes for participating potential, newly hired and
17 incumbent employees that include soft skills and acquaint immigrants with the
18 culture of the workplace. For purposes of this paragraph, "soft skills" means those
19 basic skills necessary to obtain, maintain and advance in employment, such as
20 interviewing and communications skills;

21 C. Interviewing immigrant participants and identifying the education level, English
22 language ability, skill sets, work experience, qualifications and credentials of each
23 immigrant participant;

24 D. Collaboration with participating employers to:

25 (1) Identify the employers' specific workforce needs;
26 (2) Identify skills needed for positions required by the employers;
27 (3) Receive input from the employers for the design of the training classes,
28 including information on required English language proficiency, workplace
29 culture, on-site space or other vocational training elements such as tools, manuals
30 or site tours;

31 (4) Ensure that the employers provide the time and space to offer training classes
32 on site at the employers' workplaces or, where that is not feasible, that employers
33 provide at no cost to their participating newly hired or incumbent employees
34 supports such as transportation and incentives to prioritize, encourage and
35 facilitate employee participation; and

36 (5) Ensure that within the first 12 months of participating in the program,
37 employers receive at least 12 hours of formal cultural competency training
38 regarding bridging effectively across a wide variety of cultural similarities and
39 differences to help establish an inclusive workplace environment, unless
40 employers can establish that they have already undergone such training within
41 the previous 12 months;

ROFS

1 E. One or more training classes to prepare the immigrant participants as potential
2 workers to enter into and retain livable wage employment within 6 to 18 months of
3 the beginning of the training; and

4 F. Collection and reporting of data including outcomes of employment and job
5 retention.

6 The office shall give special consideration to proposals for grants under this subsection
7 that provide incentives for immigrants to participate in the training classes, such as
8 agreements by employers to pay an employee the employee's hourly rate while attending
9 the training classes.'

10 Amend the bill in section 4 in subsection 1 in the 2nd line (page 4, line 6 in L.D.) by
11 striking out the following: "manage" and inserting the following: 'accommodate'

12 Amend the bill in section 4 by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 4, lines 9 to 13 in
13 L.D.) and inserting the following:

14 **2. Program elements.** The office shall establish by rule the elements of the
15 program. The program must provide for a planning process for communities that have
16 experienced recent growth in their immigrant populations, or that would benefit from
17 immigrant employees or population growth, to assess needs and plan for initiatives to
18 help attract or integrate immigrants into the communities and local workforce. Initiatives
19 may include, but are not limited to, provision of English language acquisition classes,
20 training in vocational skills, launch of a welcome center as described in the Maine
21 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 8614, identification of employers, cooperating
22 partners or target areas and cultivation of community support.'

23 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting the following:

24 **'Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
25 allocations are made.

26 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

27 **Adult Education 0364**

28 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for expansion of the Welcome Center Initiative
29 within the City of Lewiston's adult education program to attract, educate and retain
30 foreign-trained workers residing in Androscoggin County.

31	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
32	All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
33			
34	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

35 **Adult Education 0364**

36 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the New Mainers Resource Center within the
37 City of Portland's adult education program to assist foreign-trained professionals.

ROFS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 468, L.D. 647

1	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
2	All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

5 **Adult Education 0364**

6 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for grants for proposed welcome centers.

7	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
8	All Other	\$25,000	\$75,000
9			
10	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>

11 **Adult Education 0364**

12 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for grants to adult education programs to increase
13 English language acquisition instruction in communities experiencing an increase in
14 immigrant populations or demand, which will serve 800 participants in both fiscal years
15 of the biennium.

16	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
17	All Other	\$600,000	\$600,000
18			
19	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$600,000</u>	<u>\$600,000</u>

20 **Local Community Planning Support Program N256**

21 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for counties, municipalities and school
22 administrative units to accommodate new immigrant populations who have settled within
23 the counties, municipalities and school administrative units or to attract immigrant
24 populations to address depopulation or workforce shortages within the counties,
25 municipalities and school administrative units.

26	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
27	All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
28			
29	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

30 **Vocation-specific English-language Acquisition and Workforce Training Program**
31 **N255**

32 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for grants to service providers to provide English
33 language instruction and vocational training and to place immigrant populations in the
34 State with employers in the State. The grants will serve 500 participants in each fiscal
35 year.

ROFS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 468, L.D. 647

1	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
2	All Other	\$400,000	\$400,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$400,000</u>	<u>\$400,000</u>
5	EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
6	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2019-20	2020-21
7			
8	GENERAL FUND	\$1,475,000	\$1,525,000
9			
10	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$1,475,000</u>	<u>\$1,525,000</u>

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

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This amendment provides additional details and clarifying language regarding the
16 welcome centers, English language classes, training grants and local community planning
17 support program. The amendment also changes the appropriation for proposed welcome
18 centers from \$50,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and in fiscal year 2020-21 to \$25,000 in
19 fiscal year 2019-20 and \$75,000 in fiscal year 2020-21.

20 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

21 (See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 647

LR 568(02)

An Act To Attract, Educate and Retain New State Residents To Strengthen the Workforce

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-556)*
 Committee: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	Projections FY 2021-22	Projections FY 2022-23
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$1,475,000	\$1,525,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$1,475,000	\$1,525,000	\$300,000	\$300,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes General Fund appropriations totaling \$1,475,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$1,525,000 in fiscal year 2020-21 to the Department of Education to provide education, services and training for the State's workforce immigrant population. Of these amounts, \$150,000 per year in ongoing funds is for the expansion of the Welcome Center Initiative with the City of Lewiston's adult education program; \$150,000 per year in ongoing funds is for the New Mainers Resource Center within the City of Portland's adult education program; \$25,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 only and \$75,000 in fiscal year 2020-21 only is for grants for proposed welcome centers; \$600,000 per year in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 only is for adult education programs to increase English language acquisition instruction in certain communities; \$150,000 per year in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 only is for local communities to accomodate or attract immigrant populations to address depopulation or workforce shortages; and \$400,000 per year in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2020-21 only is for vocation-specific English language acquisition and workforce training programs.