

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1004

H.P. 746

House of Representatives, February 26, 2019

**An Act To Reduce Costs and Emissions by Increasing
Telecommuting at State Agencies**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §901**, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 270, §4, is amended to read:

3 **§901. Legislative findings and purpose**

4 The Legislature finds that alternative working hours, including part-time work, job
5 sharing and more flexible work schedules will lead to greater efficiency by state
6 employees. There are many qualified and talented Maine citizens of all ages whose
7 personal responsibilities make it difficult to work full time or during the traditional hours
8 of employment. The Legislature also finds that telework eliminates or substantially
9 reduces the physical commute to and from an employee's usual work site.

10 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §902, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

11 **5. Telework.** "Telework" means a flexible work arrangement under which an
12 employee performs the duties and responsibilities of the employee's position from a
13 location other than the office or location provided by the employer.

14 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §904** is enacted to read:

15 **§904. Telework**

16 **1. Telework rate.** The Director of Human Resources shall ensure that at least 30%
17 of state employees are teleworking by January 1, 2030.

18 **2. Employees in collective bargaining units.** The Governor, or the Governor's
19 designee who negotiates a collective bargaining agreement, may bargain and conclude
20 agreements, pursuant to Title 26, chapter 9-B, that include provisions for telework.

21 **3. Employees not in collective bargaining units.** The Director of Human
22 Resources shall adopt rules to implement telework for persons who are not in collective
23 bargaining units. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as
24 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

25 **4. Report.** The Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall report
26 annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state
27 and local government matters the State's progress in implementing this section. The
28 report must, at a minimum, contain a breakdown of the number of employees seeking
29 telework and the number of employees teleworking by department, the increase or
30 decrease in the number of such employees from the preceding year by department, an
31 estimate of savings achieved or costs imposed and a narrative summary of the efforts
32 taken by the State to encourage the development of telework.

33 **Sec. 4. Maine Revised Statutes headnote amended; revision clause.** In the
34 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 69, in the chapter headnote, the words
35 "alternative working hours" are amended to read "alternative working hours and
36 telework" and the Revisor of Statutes shall implement this revision when updating,
37 publishing or republishing the statutes.

SUMMARY

1

2 This bill requires that, by 2030, at least 30% of state employees must be teleworking.
3 The bill requires the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to annually
4 report the State's progress toward this goal.