

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 792

S.P. 53

In Senate, March 5, 2021

### **An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Eligibility Provisions of the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program**

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Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3790-A, sub-§2, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 387, §1, is amended to read:

C. Is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate degree, industry-recognized certificate or similar credential in a field or occupation that has at least an average number of job outlook openings as identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor. For fields or occupations for which the number of job outlook openings is lower than average, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee must approve the applicant's or participant's education plan. If the applicant or participant is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate 4-year degree, it must be in a health care, technology or engineering field as specified in department rules, which must at a minimum specify the health care, technology, engineering and education fields;

## SUMMARY

This bill changes the term "job outlook" to "job openings" in the law governing the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program to better describe the criteria for participation to be identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor. It provides that department rules must specify at minimum the fields of health care, technology, engineering and education in the provision governing approved postsecondary undergraduate 4-year degree programs.