

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1410

S.P. 460

In Senate, April 12, 2021

**An Act To Incentivize the Development of the Labor Force in the
Green Jobs Sector through Assistance in Repaying Student Loan
Debt**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on April 8, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Taxation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CHIPMAN of Cumberland, President JACKSON of
Aroostook, MAXMIN of Lincoln, Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor,
McDONALD of Stonington, TERRY of Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5217-E** is enacted to read:

3 **§5217-E. Green jobs employment credit**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Accredited institution" means a community college, college or university that is
7 accredited by a regional accrediting association or by one of the specialized accrediting
8 agencies recognized by the United States Secretary of Education.

9 B. "Benchmark loan payment" means the monthly loan payment, as calculated by the
10 State Tax Assessor, for the amount of the principal cap paid over 10 years at the interest
11 rate for federally subsidized Stafford loans under 20 United States Code, Section 1077a
12 applicable during the qualified individual's last year of enrollment at an accredited
13 institution.

14 C. "Financial aid package" means financial aid obtained by a student for attendance at
15 an accredited institution, including refinanced or consolidated loans if those refinanced
16 or consolidated loans remain separate from other debt.

17 D. "Green job" means a job:

18 (1) Within a business or industry sector that provides goods or services that benefit
19 the environment or conserve natural resources, including farming, fishing,
20 renewable resource development and logging in accordance with a forest
21 management plan or outcome-based forest policy, as defined in Title 12, section
22 8868, subsections 2 and 2-B, respectively. As used in this subparagraph,
23 "renewable resource" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3210,
24 subsection 2, paragraph C; or

25 (2) In which the employee is primarily responsible for making the employer's
26 activities or processes more environmentally sustainable or reducing the
27 employer's reliance on nonrenewable resources.

28 E. "Principal cap" means the limit on the loan principal for purposes of claiming the
29 credit under this section. The principal cap is equal to the average in-state tuition and
30 mandatory fees applicable to an associate, bachelor's or graduate degree program
31 within the University of Maine System for the academic year ending during the
32 calendar year prior to the individual's graduation, multiplied by the number of years of
33 full-time attendance necessary to obtain the relevant degree.

34 F. "Qualified employment" means full-time employment or part-time employment, as
35 defined in section 5217-D, subsection 1, paragraphs C and D, respectively, in a green
36 job or in a STEM career.

37 G. "Qualified individual" means an individual, including the spouse filing a joint return
38 with the individual under section 5221, who is eligible for the credit under this section.
39 An individual is eligible for the credit if the individual:

40 (1) During the taxable year, was a resident of or domiciled in this State or was
41 deployed for military service, as defined in section 5217-D, subsection 1,
42 paragraph G, subparagraph (5); and

