

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 120

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S.P. 59

In Senate, January 9, 2023

### **An Act Regarding the Committee Structure of the State Workforce Board**

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Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested 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 DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and  
Representative: GERE of Kennebunkport.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 246, §4, is amended  
3 to read:

4 **2-A. Membership.** The board consists of the Governor, or the Governor's designee,  
5 and, at a minimum, the following members:

6 A. Representatives from business and industry, representatives from organized labor  
7 and representatives of other interests as determined by the Governor. These  
8 appointments are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
9 having jurisdiction over labor matters and confirmation by the Legislature; and

10 B. The following ex officio members:

11 (1) County commissioners designated by local boards appointed by the Governor;

12 (2) The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

13 (3) The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

14 (4) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the  
15 commissioner's designee; and

16 (5) Other state, county or municipal officials as the Governor considers necessary  
17 appointed by the Governor.

18 The appointments of these members are not subject to review by the joint standing  
19 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters or confirmation by  
20 the Legislature.

21 Appointments must be consistent with the representation requirements of the Workforce  
22 Innovation and Opportunity Act. The Governor shall ensure that the board has sufficient  
23 expertise to effectively carry out the duties and functions of the board. Members must  
24 represent diverse geographic areas of the State, including urban, rural and suburban areas.

25 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§5-B**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 110, §17, is further  
26 amended to read:

27 **5-B. Commission on Disability and Employment.** In addition to its other duties, the  
28 board, through its Commission on Disability and Employment, a ~~standing~~ committee  
29 created pursuant to subsection 7, ~~paragraph A, subparagraph (2)~~ and referred to in this  
30 subsection as "the standing committee," shall perform the duties of the former Governor's  
31 Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

32 A. The standing committee shall:

33 (1) Advise, consult and assist the executive and legislative branches of State  
34 Government on activities of State Government that affect the employment of  
35 ~~disabled~~ individuals with disabilities. The standing committee is solely advisory  
36 in nature. The standing committee may advise regarding state and federal plans  
37 and proposed budgetary, legislative or policy actions affecting ~~disabled~~ individuals  
38 with disabilities;

39 (2) Serve as an advocate on behalf of ~~disabled~~ citizens with disabilities promoting  
40 and assisting activities designed to further equal opportunity for ~~people~~ individuals  
41 with disabilities;

- 1 (3) Conduct educational programs considered necessary to promote public  
2 understanding of the employment-related needs and abilities of disabled citizens  
3 of this State with disabilities;
- 4 (4) Provide information, training and technical assistance to promote greater  
5 employer acceptance of disabled workers with disabilities;
- 6 (5) Advise and assist employers and other organizations interested in developing  
7 employment opportunities for ~~disabled people~~ individuals with disabilities; and
- 8 (6) Work with state and local government officials, organizations representing  
9 ~~persons~~ individuals with disabilities and the business community to inform the  
10 public of the benefits of making facilities and services accessible to and usable by  
11 individuals with disabilities.

12 B. The standing committee shall administer in accordance with current fiscal and  
13 accounting regulations of the State, and in accordance with the philosophy, objectives  
14 and authority of this subsection, any funds appropriated for expenditure by the standing  
15 committee or any grants or gifts that may become available and are accepted and  
16 received by the standing committee.

17 C. The standing committee shall submit an annual report directly to the Governor and  
18 the Legislature not later than January 1st of each year concerning its work,  
19 recommendations and interest of the previous fiscal year and future plans. The  
20 standing committee shall make any interim reports it considers advisable.

21 D. The standing committee shall keep minutes of all meetings, including a list of  
22 people in attendance.

23 E. The standing committee may employ, subject to the Civil Service Law, the staff  
24 necessary to carry out its objectives. The standing committee may employ consultants  
25 and contract for projects it determines necessary. To the extent feasible and reasonable,  
26 the standing committee must be given the staff, facilities, equipment, supplies,  
27 information and other assistance required to carry out its activities.

28 F. The standing committee may make necessary rules, consistent with this subsection,  
29 for promoting its purposes.

30 **Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 110, §19, is further  
31 amended to read:

32 **7. ~~Committee structure~~ Committees.** ~~The board has the following committee~~  
33 ~~structure may establish committees as necessary to meet the strategic vision of the board~~  
34 ~~and to address specific problems and issues that arise. A committee established pursuant~~  
35 ~~to this subsection shall make recommendations to the full board.~~

36 ~~A. The board shall create 6 standing committees. The standing committees shall make~~  
37 ~~recommendations to the full board. The 6 standing committees are as follows:~~

- 38 (1) ~~Younger workers;~~
- 39 (2) ~~Commission on Disability and Employment;~~
- 40 (3) ~~Women's employment issues;~~
- 41 (4) ~~Older workers;~~

- 1 ~~(5) Veterans employment; and~~
- 2 ~~(6) The Program Partners Committee. Organizations with representation on the~~
- 3 ~~Program Partners Committee may include, but are not limited to, organizations that~~
- 4 ~~conduct programs or activities as specified in Section 121(b)(1)(B) of the~~
- 5 ~~Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.~~
- 6 ~~B. The board may create committees in addition to those in paragraph A to address~~
- 7 ~~specific problems and issues. These committees shall make recommendations to the~~
- 8 ~~full board.~~
- 9 ~~D. The standing committees under paragraph A committee established pursuant to this~~
- 10 ~~subsection may receive and accept, from any source, allocations, appropriations, loans,~~
- 11 ~~grants and contributions of money or other things of value to be held, used or applied~~
- 12 ~~to carry out this section, subject to the conditions upon which the loans, grants and~~
- 13 ~~contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, appropriations, allocations,~~
- 14 ~~loans, grants or gifts from a private source, federal agency or governmental subdivision~~
- 15 ~~of the State or its agencies.~~

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill changes the State Workforce Board's committee structure by removing  
18 provisions setting out named committees and replacing them with language giving the  
19 board authority to create committees as necessary. It also allows the Governor's designee  
20 to serve as a member of the board.