

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1820

S.P. 735

In Senate, April 27, 2023

An Act to Expand Access to Good Jobs with Better Career and Technical Education

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs 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 President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland and
Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8309** is enacted to read:

3 **§8309. Report on career and technical education needs**

4 Using the information in the report provided by the Department of Labor under Title
5 26, section 1455, each year the department shall compare available career and technical
6 education courses to the mapping of in-demand job titles and credentials and produce a
7 report containing recommended modifications and expansions of career and technical
8 education courses throughout the State, recommendations for budgetary and statutory
9 changes necessary to accomplish those modifications and expansions and an account of
10 nonstate money available for accomplishing those modifications and expansions. The
11 department shall make the report publicly available and provide the report to the Governor
12 and the Legislature.

13 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §10911** is enacted to read:

14 **§10911. Credit for career and technical education courses**

15 **1. Plan required.** The trustees shall create a plan to award a standard amount of credit
16 for certified career and technical education courses completed by students during secondary
17 education. The courses appropriate for certification must include trade and industry,
18 technology, agriculture, business and marketing, family and consumer science, health
19 occupational training or other vocational and technical fields. In creating the plan, the
20 trustees shall consult with university faculty governing bodies, Maine Community College
21 System faculty, the commissioner, a representative of an organization of career and
22 technical education professionals and other stakeholders the trustees consider necessary.

23 **2. Plan requirements.** The plan created under subsection 1 must include:

24 A. For each course, standardized credit offerings and general curriculum requirements;
25 and

26 B. The documentation that a student must submit in order to receive course credit.

27 **3. Credit awarding required.** Following adoption of the plan, the university shall
28 award course credit to a student who completes the course requirements and submits the
29 required documentation.

30 **Sec. 3. 26 MRSA c. 20, headnote** is amended to read:

31 **CHAPTER 20**

32 **~~COMPREHENSIVE CAREER AND OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION~~**
33 **~~SYSTEM~~**

34 **Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §1451**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 534, Pt. B, §§15 and 23, is
35 further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

36 **§1451. Purpose Comprehensive career and occupational information system**

37 **Sec. 5. 26 MRSA §1455** is enacted to read:

38 **§1455. Comprehensive career and occupational information report**

1 1. Report required. The department shall produce a career and occupational
2 information report twice each year that must include:

3 A. Workforce needs categorized by industry, job type, geographic location and
4 required credentials;

5 B. A comparison of existing and projected workforce needs and credential availability;
6 and

7 C. Mapping of in-demand job titles and credentials projected 4 years and 8 years into
8 the future.

9 The department shall make the report and the data used to create the report available to the
10 Department of Education, career and technical education providers and workforce
11 placement offices.

12 SUMMARY

13 This bill requires the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to create a
14 plan to provide course credit for career and technical education courses. It requires the
15 Department of Labor to produce a report twice each year concerning existing and projected
16 workforce needs and requires the Department of Education to use that report to recommend
17 modifications and expansions to career and technical education courses.