

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
126TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MAINE'S WORKFORCE
AND ECONOMIC FUTURE**

July 2013

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STATE OF MAINE

126TH LEGISLATURE
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES.....House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X.... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX.....chapter # of enacted public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature is October 9, 2013. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future

LD 90

An Act To Strengthen Maine's Workforce and Economic Future

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ALFOND EVES	OTP-AM	S-71 S-83 GOODALL

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

The bill proposes to strengthen the State's middle class and improve the State's business climate by making targeted and strategic investments in the State's workforce, place-based economic engines and small businesses.

The bill proposes to close the so-called "skills gap" between the State's workforce and the needs of the State's employers through a renewed partnership among the State's workers, educators and businesses.

The bill proposes to strengthen the State's place-based economic engines, including, but not limited to, downtowns, farms, forests and waters, to facilitate and accelerate economic growth.

The bill proposes to amend state laws to help improve the ability of small businesses to innovate and expand.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-71)

This amendment replaces the concept draft.

The amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and does the following.

PART A

This Part amends the laws governing the Education Coordinating Committee to require that the committee meet at least quarterly. It also requires the committee to consult organizations and associations with a commitment to and interest in education matters in developing its cooperative efforts and strategic planning. It requires the Education Coordinating Committee to examine the issues related to adults needing assistance in meeting the requirements for postsecondary education admission or entrance into specific training programs and to report to the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future by December 16, 2014 with its findings and recommendations. This Part also authorizes the joint select committee to report out legislation based on the Education Coordinating Committee's findings and recommendations.

PART B

This Part requires the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, in cooperation with the President of the Maine Community College System and the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System, to develop the policies and procedures to establish a process for students enrolled in community colleges in this State to successfully transfer their credits into the University of Maine System in order to complete their baccalaureate degrees. It also requires the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System to study the feasibility of developing a common course numbering system and provide a plan and implementation schedule, if their study results in a solution that could be realized in a reasonable timeframe and that adds value to the transfer process, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than September 1, 2014.

PART C

Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future

This Part establishes Maine industry partnerships as a cooperative initiative within the Office of the Governor. This Part also creates the Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative in the Office of the Governor administered by the Commissioner of Labor and consisting of representatives from the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System. This Part also establishes the objectives for the industry partnerships and requires the collaborative to provide staffing and other support for the industry partnerships. It establishes the industry partnerships grant program and requires the collaborative to develop application and qualification criteria for that program. This Part requires the collaborative to provide industry and labor market research to industry partnerships and to establish a performance improvement and evaluation system for the collaborative. This Part also includes an appropriations and allocations section providing \$100,000 in each year of the biennium to the Executive Department to support industry partnerships.

PART D

This Part establishes the Task Force on Adult Learners. The task force consists of 13 members and is charged with studying issues related to the more than 200,000 adults in the State who have obtained some postsecondary education but who have not earned an associate or baccalaureate degree or obtained a professional certificate. This Part requires the task force to develop a multisector statewide strategic plan to increase postsecondary degree completion rates among such nontraditional students, which will include both short-term and long-term strategies to increase degree completion rates by nontraditional students in the State and provide proposed draft legislation related to these strategies. The task force is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future no later than February 1, 2014.

PART E

This Part requires the director of the office within the Department of Education concerned with adult education and family literacy to convene the Working Group on Adult Workforce Readiness to develop a statewide plan to address the work readiness needs of unemployed adults, incumbent workers and employers. This Part requires that the director report the findings and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future by January 2, 2014.

PART F

This Part requires Jobs for Maine's Graduates to provide capacity, curriculum and professional development to assist up to 30 high schools, depending on available funding, in creating career preparation courses and local business networks to support career preparation activities. It also requires the Executive Director of Jobs for Maine's Graduates to report by February 1, 2014 on progress toward achieving the goal of providing the resource support required by this Part to the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future.

PART G

This Part establishes the Maine Incumbent Worker Training Program as a pilot project within the Maine Community College System. This Part requires that the pilot project provide additional training to 300 incumbent workers across the State. This Part requires the President of the Maine Community College System to establish guidelines for the pilot project that require some participating employers to pay a percentage of costs of providing training to their employees. This Part requires that the President of the Maine Community College System report on the pilot project by January 15, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters.

PART H

This Part expands InternHelpME.com, a statewide internship-matching program established by the Maine State

Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future

Chamber of Commerce that links employers, students, colleges and universities. This Part requires the Commissioner of Labor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, to establish a 13-member advisory committee to assist the Commissioner of Labor in program oversight and development. This Part requires a report on the expansion of InternHelpME.com to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters by January 2, 2015.

PART I

This Part provides an additional General Fund appropriation of \$320,000 in each year of the 2013-2015 biennium to create 4 new degree programs annually through the Bring College to ME Program within the Maine Community College System. The new degree programs will be delivered to rural Maine in high-skill, high-wage occupations.

PART J

Part J provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 to match \$500,000 in private funding from the University of Maine System to establish a scholarship program in the University of Maine System to assist adults with prior education credits to return to the University of Maine System to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

PART K

Part K provides a General Fund appropriation for the Maine Apprenticeship Program of \$575,000 in fiscal year 2013-14 and \$590,000 in fiscal year 2014-15.

PART L

Part L provides an additional appropriation of \$1,180,000 in each year of the 2013-2015 biennium to the Maine Community College System to enable the system to reduce the backlog of student applicants for 14 high-demand courses of study that result in degrees or certifications that lead to the opportunity for graduates to obtain high-wage jobs.

PART M

Part M provides a General Fund appropriation of \$75,000 in each year of the 2013-2015 biennium to the office within the Department of Education concerned with adult education and family literacy for a full-time coordinator position for a pilot project that will establish a foreign-trained worker Welcome Center Initiative in the Portland adult education program.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-83)

This amendment requires the Department of Corrections to perform the duties required in the committee amendment within existing resources, provides the Industry Partnership Assistance Collaborative with the discretion, rather than the duty, to provide industry and market research necessary to support the work of industry partnerships and removes the related appropriations.

The provisions in this bill, as amended by Committee Amendment "A" and Senate Amendment "A" are incorporated into Public Law 2013, chapter 368, Parts A, CCCCC, DDDDD, EEEEE, FFFFF, GGGGG, HHHHH, IIIII, JJJJJ and KKKKK.

See the bill summary for LD 1509 under the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.