

**COMMITTEE WORKING DRAFT FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "." TO LD 90, An Act To Strengthen Maine's Workforce and Economic Future.

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and replacing it with:

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

**PART A**

**Sec. A-1. 20-A MRS §10907-A is enacted to read:**

**§10907-A. Transfers of college credits.**

**1. Seamless transition.** The Chancellor and the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine, in cooperation with the President and the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System, shall develop the necessary policies and procedures to provide a seamless transition process that ensures that a student earning an associate's degree from the Maine Community College System will have the opportunity to graduate from the University with a baccalaureate degree.

**2. Articulation agreements.** The Chancellor and the Board of Trustees shall ensure through articulation agreements that programs of study that have equivalent programs of study at the Maine Community College System allow a student to successfully transfer credits from a community college in this State to a campus of the University so that a student who has earned an associate's degree from a community college in two years has the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree at the University. Formulation of articulation agreements in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs must be first priority.

**3. Block credit agreements.** In the absence of equivalent programs of study among the university campuses and the community colleges in this State, the Chancellor, in cooperation with the President of the Maine Community College System, shall develop a block credit agreement that will ensure that a student earning an associate's degree at a community college in this State will be guaranteed that a minimum number of that student's credits transfers to the University.

**4. Reverse transfer credit.** A student who transfers to the University and who has earned course credits from a campus of the Maine Community College System, but who has not earned an associate's degree from the Community College System, may, after fulfilling the appropriate requirements toward a degree at the University, be awarded an associate's degree, either by the University or the Maine Community College System. The University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System shall work collaboratively to develop a

system through which the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System are enabled to report such students as having completed degrees.

**Sec. A-2. Effective dates.** The articulation agreements required under subsection 2 must be in place for all appropriate programs no later than September 1, 2014. Articulation agreements for General Education must be in place no later than January 1, 2014 within the respective systems, and by September 1, 2014 between the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System. Articulation agreements for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs referenced in subsection 2 must be in place, no later than ~~January~~ September 1, 2014. The requirements of subsection 3 and 4 must be met by September 1, 2014.

**Sec. A-3. Report.** The Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System shall report on the result of their efforts to ensure that the requirements of this Part are carried out to the joint standing committee with jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2014.

**Sec. A-4. Common course numbering system.** The Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System shall study the feasibility of developing a common course numbering system, including best practice, opportunities and challenges. The chancellor and the president shall report the results of their study, along with a plan and schedule for implementation of a common course numbering system if their study results in a solution that could be realized in a reasonable timeframe and which adds value to the transfer process, to the joint standing committee with jurisdiction over education matters no later than September 1, 2014.

### Summary

Part A proposes to require the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, in cooperation with the President and 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 System in order to complete their baccalaureate degrees. It also requires that the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System study the feasibility of developing a common course numbering system and to provide a report to the joint standing committee with jurisdiction over education matters no later than September 1, 2014.

**PART B**

**Sec. B-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Bring College to ME Program**

Initiative: Provides funding to establish four new degree programs annually in high-skill, high wage, high-demand occupations.

**GENERAL FUND**

All Other

**2013-14**

**\$320,000**

**2014-15**

**\$320,000**

**GENERAL FUND TOTAL**

**\$320,000**

**\$320,000**

**Sec. B-2. Report.** The President of the Maine Community College System shall report by January 1, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the new degree programs established under the Bring College to ME Program expansion initiative. The report must include information on the specific programs created, number of students attending and completing these programs, job placements for program graduates and aggregate data on the graduates' wages from post-program employment.

**Summary**

Part B proposes to provide an additional General Fund appropriation of \$320,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 biennium to create four 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 C**

**Sec. C-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**

Initiative: Provides one-time General Fund appropriation of \$2,300,000 in the 2014-15 biennium fiscal year to match \$2,300,000 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 educational credits to return to the University to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$0	\$2,300,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,300,000</b>

**Sec. C-2. Report.** In developing qualification criteria for the scholarship program for adults with prior educational credits who are returning to the University to complete their baccalaureate degrees, The Chancellor of the University of Maine System shall consider the number of prior educational credits earned by the applicant, the number of years since the applicant last earned educational credits and the level to which the applicant demonstrates a financial need. The chancellor shall report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over education matters on the status of the scholarship program for adults with prior educational credits who are returning to the University to complete their baccalaureate degrees. The report must include information on the number of adult students receiving assistance, the completion rates of scholarship recipients, and aggregate information on post-graduation job placement and wages if available.

**Summary**

Part C proposes to provide a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$2,300,000 in the 2014-15 biennium fiscal year to match \$2,300,000 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 educational credits to return to the University to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

## PART D

### Sec.D-1. Task Force on Adult Learners

1. **Task force established.** Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Task Force on Adult Learners, referred to in this Part as “the task force,” is established.

2. **Membership.** The task force consists of ~~19~~ 25 members appointed as follows:

A. One member from the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate. In making this appointment, the President shall give preference to a member of the Joint Select Committee on Maine’s Workforce and Economic Future;

B. One member from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. In making this appointment, the Speaker shall give preference to a member of the Joint Select Committee on Maine’s Workforce and Economic Future;

C. The Chancellor the University of Maine System or the chancellor’s designee;

D. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president’s designee;

E. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner’s designee;

F. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner’s designee;

G. The Director of Adult Education or the director’s designee;

H. The Chair of the State Workforce Investment Board or the chair’s designee;

I. One representative of statewide membership organization advocating for business, appointed by the President of the Senate;

J. One representative of a statewide non-profit dedicated to adult degree attainment appointed by the President of the Senate;

K. One representative from a statewide foundation dedicated to community development appointed by the President of the Senate;

L. One representative from a statewide organization representing small business owners appointed by the President of the Senate;

M. One person who is enrolled in a post-secondary course of study at a public university or college in this State who has returned to pursue an associate’s or bachelor’s degree

after an interruption in that person's post-secondary studies of at least two years appointed by the President of the Senate;

N. One representative from an association of career and technical education educators appointed by the President of the Senate;

O. ~~Two~~ Three representatives from ~~major~~ employers based in this state, at least two of which employ more than 100, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

P. One representative from each of the four Local Workforce Investment Boards appointed by the Speaker of the House;

Q. One person who is currently enrolled in a post-secondary adult education program in this State appointed by the Speaker of the House;

R. One representatives from regional economic development organizations appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

S. One representative from a statewide association of professionals working within educational opportunity programs appointed by the Speaker of the House.

**3. Chairs.** The Senate member is the Senate chair of the task force and the House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task force.

**4. Appointments; convening of task force.** All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointments of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business.

**5. Duties.** The task force shall study issues related to the more than 200,000 adults in the State who have obtained some post-secondary education but who have not earned an associate's or baccalaureate degree or achieve a professional certificate. The task force shall develop both short- and long-term strategies to increase adult degree completion rates in the state.

A. In conducting its study, the task force shall:

- (1) Review available literature and best practices related to adult degree completion;
- (2) Review available data and research on adult degree completion in Maine, New England and nationally;

- (3) Assess the current status of adult degree completion in Maine, including available support services, academic programs, student funding options, current adult learner initiatives in progress; and
- (4) Identify barriers to adult degree completion.

B. The task force shall make recommendations to:

- (1) Make the most effective use of local, state and federal resources, including leveraging private foundation investment;
- (2) Develop a multi-sector statewide strategic plan to increase post-secondary completion rates among the adult population;
- (3) Align high school graduation, workforce training and adult education expectations to public post-secondary institution admission and placement requirements;
- (4) Promote seamless transfer and expansion of credit granted through prior learning assessment, including credit for employer-based training programs;
- (5) Develop a statewide outreach and support campaign to reach the target population of adults with some post-secondary education but no degree or certification;
- (6) Create programs that can accelerate certificate, associate and bachelor's degree attainment; and
- (7) Identify financial resources that can support adult degree completion through grants or scholarships; and
- (8) Identify redundancies in programs and initiatives that serve adult learners and recommend program elimination or, where appropriate, consolidation and collaboration strategies.

**6. Staff assistance.** Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353 and upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force.

**7. Compensation.** Members of the Task Force who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings.

**8. Report.** The task force shall submit its report, including the recommendations required by section 5, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Second

Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature no later than December 4, 2013. The report must be presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, which may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

### Summary

Part D proposes to establish the Task Force on Adult Learners. The task force consists of 19 25 members and is charged with studying issues related to the more than 200,000 adults in the State who have obtained some post-secondary education but who have not earned an associate's or baccalaureate degree or achieve a professional certificate. This part also requires the task force develop both short- and long-term strategies to increase adult degree completion rates in the state and to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 4, 2013.

**PART E**

**Sec. E-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**WOMEN, WORK AND COMMUNITY, MAINE CENTERS FOR**

Initiative: Provides additional funding to enable Women, Work and Community to develop statewide capacity to deliver and coordinate various workforce development training and services in all regions of the state. The training and services to be offered under this initiative includes both online and place-based career planning classes for an additional 300 adults annually, doubling the Centers' capacity.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

**Sec. E-2. Report.** The Executive Director of Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community shall report by January 1, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters on the Centers' efforts to develop statewide capacity to deliver and coordinate various workforce development training and services in all regions of the state. The report must, at a minimum, include information on the number of adult men and women who have participated in and completed the Centers' career planning classes as a result of this initiative as well as available aggregate data about post-program career and education activities of program participants.

**Summary**

Part E proposes to provide additional funding of \$300,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 biennium to Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community to develop statewide capacity to deliver and coordinate a variety of workforce development training and services in all regions of the state. The initiative proposes that Women, Work and Community provide both online and place-based career planning classes for an additional 300 adults annually. This Part also requires that Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community report on the initiative to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters by January 1, 2015.

**PART F**

**Sec. F-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**JOBS FOR MAINE’S GRADUATES**

Initiative: Provides an annual appropriation to Jobs for Maine’s Graduates, to be matched by funding from private sector sources, to further JMG’s role as a resource support organization. JMG will provide capacity, curriculum and professional development to assist 50 high schools in creating career preparation courses and local business networks to support career preparation activities.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

**Sec. F-2. Report.** The Chief Executive Officer and President of the Jobs for Maine’s Graduates, Inc. shall report by January 1, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on JMG’s efforts to provide capacity, curriculum and professional development to assist high schools in this state create career preparation courses and local business networks to support career preparation activities. The report must, at a minimum, include information on the number of high schools to which career preparation resource support has been provided by the date of the report, the number of courses and networks created, the number of students attending and completing the career preparation courses created and the amount of private funding leveraged by state funds dedicated to JMG’s career preparation initiative.

**Summary**

Part F proposes to provide an annual appropriation of \$100,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 biennium to Jobs for Maine’s Graduates, to be matched by funding from the business community, to further JMG’s role as a resource support organization. This part proposes that JMG provide capacity, curriculum and professional development to assist 50 high schools in creating career preparation courses and local business networks to support career preparation activities. It also requires the Chief Executive Officer and President of Jobs for Maine’s Graduates, Inc. to report by January 1, 2015 on the results of JMG’s efforts to provide the resource support described in this initiative.

**PART G**

**Sec. G-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Maine Quality Centers**

Initiative: Provides funding to the Maine Quality Centers to provide additional training to an estimated 500 employees of existing businesses in the state. The Maine Community College Centers will provide an equal amount of funding from other sources to support these incumbent workforce training programs.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$125,000	\$125,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

**Sec. G-2. Implementation and report.** In establishing guidelines for the incumbent worker training programs delivered through the Maine Quality Centers, the President of the Maine Community College System shall ensure that the funds will be used to provide training for incumbent workers at existing businesses in the state with fewer than 100 employees. Funds may also be used to provide training for employees at existing businesses with 100 or more employees providing that those participating businesses provide at least 50% of the training costs. The President also shall give preference to programs that result in college credits and transferable, industry-recognized credentials. The president shall report by January 1, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters on the incumbent worker training initiative. The report must include, at a minimum, information on the training provided incumbent workers, number of employees attending and completing the training programs, the numbers of businesses participating and an initial evaluation of the effectiveness of the incumbent worker training initiative.

**Summary**

Part G proposes an additional appropriation of \$125,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 biennium to the Maine Quality Centers within the Maine Community College System to enable the Quality Centers to provide additional training to an estimated 450 incumbent workers across the state. The additional appropriation will be matched by an equal amount from the Maine Community College System. The funds will provide training for incumbent workers at existing businesses in the state with fewer than 100 employees. The funds may also be used to provide

training for employees at existing businesses with 100 or more employees providing that those participating businesses provide at least 50% of the training costs. This Part also requires that the President of the Maine Community College System report on the incumbent worker training initiative by January 1, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters.

**PART H**

**Sec. H-1. 20-A MRS §8453-B to 8453-F** are enacted to read:

**§8453-B. Election of cooperative board members**

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 8452 and 8453-A, members of a career and technical education region cooperative board shall be elected pursuant to sections 8453-C to 8453-H.

**§8453-C. Transition; election of regional cooperative board members**

**1. Transition.** Until each school administrative unit that is a member of a regional cooperative board certifies the election of a member or members representing it on the regional cooperative board and that member or members are seated, the cooperative board member or members from that unit shall continue to represent the school administrative unit on the cooperative board.

**2. Election.** The secretary of the cooperative board shall notify the municipal officers of the member municipalities of the regional school unit of the date of the election. The election must be conducted in accordance with section 8453-E. The duties of the secretary include:

- A. Notifying the municipal officers of the date of the election;
- B. Furnishing nomination papers at least 10 days before the deadline for filing nomination papers;
- C. Receiving completed nomination papers in accordance with section 8453-E;
- D. Preparing and distributing election ballots in accordance with section 8453-E;
- E. Receiving the town clerk's certification of the results of the voting in each member municipality;
- F. Tabulating the town clerk's certification of the results of the voting in each member municipality;
- G. Accepting any recount petitions that may have been filed pursuant to section 8453-E; and
- H. Totaling the votes cast for each candidate and notifying the clerk in each municipality and the candidates of the final results of the voting and the names and addresses of the persons elected as members.

### **§8453-D. Term of office for elected members**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, a regional cooperative board may place an article before the voters in the member municipalities of the regional cooperative that would permit the regional cooperative board to establish a single common date for beginning the term of office for duly elected members when the board members are elected at the regular municipal election of the member municipalities and these municipal elections are held at different times.

### **§8453-E. Election**

For the purpose of nominations, regional cooperative board members are considered municipal officials and must be nominated in accordance with Title 30-A, chapter 121 or with a municipal charter, whichever is applicable.

### **§8453-F. Vacancies**

#### **1. Definition. A vacancy on a regional cooperative board occurs:**

- A. When the term of office of a regional cooperative board member expires;**
- B. When a regional cooperative board member changes residency from the municipality or subdistrict from which that member was elected. Evidence that an individual is registered to vote in a municipality is factual evidence of that individual's residency;**
- C. On the death of a regional cooperative board member; or**
- D. When a regional cooperative board member resigns.**

In addition to paragraphs A, B, C and D, except in municipalities having a municipal charter, when a member is absent without excuse from 3 consecutive regular board meetings, the regional cooperative board may declare that a vacancy exists.

**2. Regional cooperative board.** The regional school unit board shall notify the municipal officers of the municipalities within the regional school unit of a vacancy before the annual town meeting or before the regular municipal election.

**3. Filling vacancies.** A vacancy on a regional cooperative board must be filled according to this subsection.

**A. The municipal officers of the municipality in which the former member resided shall select an interim member for the municipality or subdistrict to serve until the next annual municipal election. The interim member may serve until a successor is elected and qualified.**

B. The municipal officers shall provide at the next municipal or subdistrict election for the election of a member to fill the vacancy.

**Sec. H-2. Effective date.** The provisions of this section are effective for all career and technical education regional cooperative boards in operation as of January 1, 2014. The requirements of this section must be completed by each regional cooperative board by December 31, 2014.

### Summary

Part H proposes to require the election of members of career and technical education regional cooperative boards effective with calendar year 2014. This part also allows current members of cooperative boards to continue to represent their regional school units until an elected board member representing their unit is elected and qualified.

**PART I**

**Sec. I-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
Employment Services Activity**

Initiative: Provides funding for The Maine Apprenticeship Program.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$575,000	\$590,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	<b>\$590,000</b>

**Summary**

Part I proposes to provide 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 J**

**Sec. J-1. 26 MRSA c. 38** is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 38****MAINE INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS****§3301. Scope of program**

This chapter establishes Maine Industry Partnerships as an initiative within the Department of Labor. Maine's workforce development system must ensure that employees in this State are directed toward and trained in the high skill, high-demand, family-sustaining wage jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. Industry Partnerships align education and training programs with industry needs to produce readily employable workers and bring employers together in a collaborative effort to improve the competitiveness of individual businesses, the industry and the State's economy. Industry Partnerships provide the foundation for the State's demand-driven workforce strategy designed to meet the workforce needs of businesses, the career goals and training needs of workers and the economic development objectives of this State.

**§3302. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**1. Career ladder.** "Career ladder" means a clear sequence of education coursework or training that is aligned with an identified series of positions, work experiences or educational benchmarks or training credentials that offer occupational and financial advancement within a specified career field or related fields over time.

**2. Department.** "Department" means the Department of Labor.

**3. Educational programs.** "Educational programs" means the State's local K-12 system, Career and Technical Education Centers, Adult Education, the Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy, and the University of Maine System.

**4. High priority occupations.** "High priority occupations" means occupations that have a significant presence in an industry cluster, are in demand by employers, pay a family-sustaining wage or have a documented career ladder.

**5. Industry cluster.** "Industry cluster" means a group of employers closely linked by common product or services, workforce needs, similar technologies, supply chains or other industry sector factors.

**6. Targeted industrial cluster.** “Targeted industrial cluster” means an industry cluster identified by the State of Maine as having statewide economic impact, immediate or long term workforce development needs, and emerging and/or competitive career opportunities.

**7. Industry partnership.** “Industry partnership” means a workforce collaboration that brings together multiple employers and employees, or employee representatives when appropriate, in the same industry cluster to address common workforce needs.

**8. Participating departments and agencies.** “Participating departments and agencies” mean any departments or agencies under the Executive’s jurisdiction.

**§3303. Industry clusters**

**1. Specific industry clusters.** The department shall work with businesses, industry associations and organizations, workforce and economic development agencies, state and local workforce investment boards and economic development entities to define specific industry clusters based on the following criteria:

- A. Statistics showing the competitiveness of an industry cluster;**
- B. Importance to state or region’s economic development;**
- C. Identification of supply and distribution chains within an industry;**
- D. Research studies on industry clusters; and**
- E. The cluster is an existing industry partnership such as the Maine Health Workforce Forum or the Manufacturers Association of Maine.**

**2. Targeted industry clusters.** The department shall work with state and regional workforce and economic development agencies, with input from regional business and labor leaders, to identify which industry clusters shall be targeted for workforce and economic development investments based primarily on the following activities:

- A. Economic growth potential;**
- B. Competitiveness;**
- C. Employment base;**
- D. Wages, benefits and career opportunities;**
- E. Importance of the cluster to the state and regional economy; and**

**F. Workforce development needs.**

**3. Evaluation of clusters.** Once during every three-year period, the department shall evaluate the industry clusters as to their importance to the State's economy and determine the need for any changes to the targeted industry clusters.

**4. Annual report.** The department shall issue a report annually that includes information and statistics on the targeted industry clusters, including labor market information highlighting the clusters. The report, which must be presented to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development, must include an occupational analysis depicting the employment and wages within the cluster.

**5. Occupations list.** The department shall develop and make available to the public on a yearly basis a list of statewide and regional high priority occupations critical to the success of the targeted industry clusters.

**§3304. Industry Partnerships**

**1. Objectives.** Industry Partnerships are created to achieve the following objectives.

**A. Organize businesses, employers, workers, labor organizations, and industry associations into a collaborative structure that supports the sharing of information, ideas and challenges common to their industry cluster;**

**B. Identify the training needs of multiple businesses, especially skill gaps critical to competitiveness and innovation to the industry cluster;**

**C. Facilitate economies of scale by aggregating training and education needs of multiple employers;**

**D. Help educational and training institutions align curriculum and programs to industry demand, particularly for higher skill occupations;**

**E. Foster and strengthen relationships between and among education programs working to address the needs of related industry sections;**

**F. Facilitate relationships, remove barriers, leverage and align resources between participating departments and agencies and employers working to address the needs of related industry sectors;**

**G. Inform and collaborate with the Career Centers, youth councils, business-education partnerships, intermediate units, secondary and post-secondary educational institutions, parents, and career counselors for the purpose of addressing the challenges of connecting disadvantaged adults and youth to careers;**

H. Help companies identify and collaborate to address common organizational and human resource challenges, such as recruiting new workers, retraining dislocated workers, hiring foreign trained professionals, retaining incumbent workers, implementing a high-performance work organization, adopting new technologies and fostering experiential and contextualized on-the-job learning;

I. Develop and strengthen career ladders within and across companies, enabling entry-level workers to improve skills and advance to higher-wage jobs;

J. Help companies in industry partnerships to attract potential employees from a diverse job seeker base, including veterans and individuals with barriers to employment, such as job seekers who are economically disadvantaged, people with disabilities, youth, older workers, ex-offenders, and others; and

K. Strengthen connections among businesses in industry clusters, leading to cooperation beyond workforce issues that would improve competitiveness and job quality, such as joint purchasing, market research or centers for technology and innovation.

**2. Responsibilities of the department. The department shall:**

A. Provide support and staffing assistance to the industry partnerships established under this chapter;

B. Create an Industry Partnership or Sector Strategy Committee to advise the department and the State Workforce Board on aligning state policies and leveraging resources across systems, including workforce development, education and economic development;

C. Include requirements that support industry partnerships or sector strategies into all relevant programs, grants and new initiatives; and

D. Use sector strategies or industry partnerships as a connective framework across systems and programs when applying for federal and private funds.

**3. Agency and educational program roles and responsibilities. The department shall provide staffing assistance to industry partnerships established under this chapter. In accordance with subsection five of this section, participating agencies shall assist the Department in helping industry partnerships to achieve the objectives outlined in this section. Other agencies that by statute, regulation, funding or other policies affect employers and employees shall cooperate with the department to achieve the following.**

A. Maintain up-to-date information on jobs, wages, benefits, skills, and careers of workers impacted by such agency actions,

B. Develop and implement policies that will improve the jobs and careers of workers impacted by such agency actions, and

C. Report their job creation strategies and major human capital needs to the department.

**4. Evaluation information.** Upon request, all departments and agencies of this State shall provide to the department any information that will assist the department in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, including any performance measurement information necessary to evaluate any program or policy impacting workforce development in the State.

**5. Participating agency cooperation.** At a minimum, the participating departments and agencies shall work with department in the following manner.

A. The Department of Economic and Community Development shall:

- (1) Advise the department of its workforce and economic development strategies, programs and initiatives;
- (2) Align existing training programs with industry partnerships;
- (3) Make relevant business assistance programs available to partnerships;
- (4) Coordinate with the department on areas of business retention; and
- (5) Advise the department of its industry competitiveness programs and cluster strategies.

B. The Department of Corrections shall:

- (1) Align training for inmates with industry clusters and high priority occupations and annually review these training programs to assure that the training programs prepare individuals for high priority occupations; and
- (2) Align reentry programs to take advantage of information and career opportunities provided by industry partnerships.

C. The Department of Education shall:

- (1) Develop curriculum and build cross agency and program partnerships to support career pathways;
- (2) Support innovative programs to address literacy, including English as a second language, numeracy shortcomings, and soft skills training, especially in those occupations critical to targeted industry clusters;
- (3) Collaborate with the Department to develop programs and strategies to reduce barriers to adult education;
- (4) Coordinate career education initiatives in middle and high schools, career and technical education programs and adult education;
- (5) Facilitate employer engagement with local adult education and career and technical education programs to align training with employer needs;
- (6) Advise the department in developing industry partnerships and career pathways in collaboration with employers;
- (7) Collaborate and coordinate educational initiatives with higher education programs;

- (8) Support initiatives to develop industry recognized credentials and new credit bearing programs in the State’s public and private post-secondary institutions, especially in occupations critical to targeted industry clusters; and
- (9) Work cooperatively with the Department and other agencies and educational programs to leverage resources and share data regarding the state’s workforce needs.

D. The Department of Health and Human Services shall:

- (1) Create and maintain innovative programs that connect qualified TANF clients with employment opportunities in the targeted industry clusters;
- (2) Support strategies to prepare TANF clients for success in post-secondary education and training programs;
- (3) Work with other agencies and educational programs to develop career pathways and education initiatives that provide TANF clients with information to guide their education and training plans; and
- (4) Collect and share employment information with the department to the extent allow by applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

E. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall:

- (1) Advise the department on professional licensing opportunities and criteria;
- (2) Provide the department aggregate information on active professional licenses as needed in analyzing data that will support or sustain industry partnerships; and
- (3) Assist the department in developing strategies that will reduce barriers to obtaining professional licensure within industry clusters where it may be required.

F. The Maine Community College System shall:

- (1) Develop curriculum and build cross agency and program partnerships to support career pathways;
- (2) Support innovative programs to address literacy, including English as a second language, numeracy shortcomings, and soft skills training, especially in those occupations critical to targeted industry clusters;
- (3) Collaborate with the department to develop programs and strategies to reduce barriers to adult education;
- (4) Advise the department in developing industry partnerships and career pathways in collaboration with employers;
- (5) Collaborate and coordinate educational initiatives with adult education and other higher educational programs;
- (6) Support initiatives to develop industry recognized credentials and new credit bearing programs, especially in occupations critical to targeted industry clusters; and
- (7) Work cooperatively with the department and other agencies and educational programs to leverage resources and share data regarding the state’s workforce needs.

G. The University of Maine System shall:

- (1) Develop curriculum and build cross agency and program partnerships to support career pathways;
- (2) Support innovative programs to address literacy, including English as a second language, numeracy shortcomings, and soft skills training, especially in those occupations critical to targeted industry clusters;
- (3) Collaborate with the department to develop programs and strategies to reduce barriers to adult education;
- (4) Advise the department in developing industry partnerships and career pathways in collaboration with employers;
- (5) Collaborate and coordinate educational initiatives with adult education and other higher educational programs;
- (6) Support initiatives to develop industry recognized credentials and new credit bearing programs, especially in occupations critical to targeted industry clusters; and
- (7) Work cooperatively with the department and other agencies and educational programs to leverage resources and share data regarding the state's workforce needs.

### **§3305. Industry Partnership Grant Program.**

**1. Grant Program.** The department shall establish a competitive grant program that provides support to Industry Partnerships and eligible applicants pursuant to this chapter. The grants must be used to provide training or capacity building for local, state or regional programs to meet the objectives listed in Section 3304.

**2. Applications and guidelines.** The department shall establish grant guidelines and develop grant applications and forms and institute such policies and procedures as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. These procedures must include at a minimum:

- A. A competitive application process;**
- B. A process to review applications and to make recommendations to the department;**
- C. A process for providing applicants with additional information about eligibility requirement and assistance in preparing applications; and**
- D. A procedure for establishing eligibility requirements. At a minimum, these procedures must include the following:**
  - (1) Involvement of the local workforce investment board;
  - (2) Participation of at least three four employers, with at least two employers representing businesses with fewer than 25 employees;
  - (3) Participation of employees, and where applicable, labor representatives;
  - (4) Private sector matching funding of at least 25 percent; and
  - (5) Commitment to participate in the Industry Partnership's Performance Improvement and Evaluation System established pursuant to section 3307.

**3. Grant period and renewal.** The grant period for grants awarded under this section must be for a period of not less than 12 months and not more than 24 months. The department may provide opportunities for renewal after the initial grant period ends.

**4. Technical assistance.** The department shall provide technical assistance to grantees throughout the grant period.

**5. Other funding sources.** The department shall seek and may accept funds from other private and public sources to support and sustain industry partnerships and related activities established in this chapter. Industry Partnerships also may seek other sources of funding, both public and private.

**§3306. Industry and labor market research**

The department shall provide any industry and labor market research necessary to support and further develop the work of industry partnerships, including, but not limited to:

**1. Employment analysis.** Providing the most current available analysis of industry employment occupation and skills in Maine for the purpose of determining trends in the State that may lead to changes in the targeted industry clusters;

**2. High priority occupations list.** Maintaining and updating the annual list of Maine's high priority occupations;

**3. List adjustment.** Providing the most current available analysis of high priority occupations for the purpose of determining trends that may lead to adjustments to the list.

**§3307. Industry Partnership performance improvement and evaluation system.**

**1. Improvement and evaluation system.** The department shall create and implement a performance improvement and evaluation system that

**A. Collects critical Industry Partnership information on an annual basis, or more frequently as determined by the department;**

**B. Defines the benefits of the partnership and its activities to employers, employees and communities; and**

**C. Provides periodic performance information to the Legislature, the public, and workforce stakeholders.**

**2. Cluster partnership reviews.** The department shall coordinate year-end reviews of each industry cluster’s partnerships and produce a comprehensive industry cluster overview report that captures:

**A. The critical learning of each Industry Partnership, such as, training that was most effective; most common human resource challenges; impact of changing technology on the industry; prospective changes in that may impact the industry in the near- and long-term; and**

**B. Practices that Industry Partnerships consider exemplary, such as, effectively engaging adult education programs and post-secondary educational institutions, internships and clinical placements; the most effective training providers; working with Career and Technical Education schools; and other important areas where Industry Partnerships can assist each other.**

**§3308. Rulemaking.**

**Rulemaking.** The commissioner shall adopt rules for the operation of industry partnerships funded in part or whole under this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this chapter are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. J-2. Maine Energy Industry Partnership on Training in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Trades.** The commissioner shall promote collaboration between the State and the energy industry sector to create an industry partnership to train workers in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and energy efficiency and conservation trades. This industry training initiative must be designed to promote partnerships among private sector industry organizations such as the Maine Energy Marketers Association Education Foundation and its Technical Education Center and various state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Finance Authority of Maine, the Maine State Housing Authority, the Maine Community College System and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

**Sec. J-3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Maine Industry Partnerships**

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to fund training activities conducted by, staffing and technical assistance to, and a competitive grant program for, the Maine Industry Partnerships which is established in Title 26, chapter 38.

**GENERAL FUND**

**2013-14**

**2014-15**

All Other	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

### Summary

PART J establishes the Maine Industry Partnerships program within the Department of Labor. It also proposes to require the department to define industry clusters and to identify targeted industry clusters. This Part also proposes to establish the objectives for the Industry Partnerships program and to require the department to provide staffing and other support for the program. It also establishes the Industry Partnerships Grant Program and requires the department to develop application and qualification criteria for that program. This Part also proposes to require the department to provide industry and labor market research to the Industry Partnerships and to establish a performance improvement and evaluation system for the partnerships. This Part also proposes a biennial appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Department of Labor for the Maine Industry Partnership initiative.

## PART K

**Sec. K-1. 20-A c. 428-D** is enacted to read:

### Chapter 428-D **Maine Skills Academy**

#### **§12456-A. Academy established.**

1. **Academy established.** The Maine Skills Academy is established. To remain competitive, this State's public and private workplaces require that employees continually upgrade their skills and qualifications beyond diplomas, degrees and certificates acquired at various stages of their careers. Workplaces, career centers, adult education courses, private and public sector training regimens, apprenticeships and on-the-job training all provide additional skills and qualifications to employees that are in addition to or in lieu of traditional post-secondary education courses of study. The informal and ad-hoc nature of these acquired skills and qualifications means they often go unrecognized by both businesses and educational institutions. The Maine Skills Academy is established to provide a means for evaluating and validating these additional skills and qualifications acquired by the State's workforce so that these experiences can be added to their skills resumes.

#### **§12456-B. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. **Lifetime skills account.** "Lifetime skills account" means an electronic or written transcript of an employee's skills credentials, including courses completed, certificates awarded, degrees earned, licenses received and on-the-job training completed from all valid sources, both public and private.

#### **§12456-C Skills Advisory Board**

The Maine Skills Academy Advisory Board is established to help carry out the purposes of this chapter.

1. **Board membership:** The board comprises the following 14 members, including ex officio members:
  - A. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;
  - B. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee;
  - C. The Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development or

the commissioner’s designee;

D. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor or the commissioner’s designee;

E. The Director of Adult Education; and invited members;

F. The President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce;

G. Six representatives from employers within Maine recommended by the Maine Development Foundation; and

H. Two non-management employees, including one representative of a labor union.

**§12456-D. Duties of the board. The Skills Academy Board shall:**

1. **Develop skills database.** Oversee the creation of a skills database of verified and recognized credentials to be included in a worker’s Career Center skills transcript;

2. **Assess skills training programs.** Review the State’s current workforce skill training programs and assess them for inclusion in the skills database;

3. **Evaluating credentials.** Develop and establish a mechanism for evaluating new workforce skill training credentials for inclusion in the skills database; and

4. **Report.** Biennially, evaluate the Skills Academy efforts and report the results of that evaluation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over education matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over labor matters.

**Summary**

Part K proposes to establish the Maine Skills Academy to create a process and methodology by which the skills credentials of the State’s workforce may be aggregated and verified so they can be used to demonstrate a worker’s competencies. It also proposes to establish the 14-member Maine Skills Academy Advisory Board and to charge it with creating the processes and methodologies by which skills will be evaluated and credited.

**PART L**

**Sec. L-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM – BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Initiative: Provides additional funding to the Maine Community College System to reduce the backlog of students waiting for admission into programs at the community colleges that are high demand and result in high wage employment opportunities. In distributing the funds, the Board shall give first preference to reducing program admission backlogs at Southern Maine Community College and York County Community College, including the funding faculty required to expand the capacity of the Integrated Manufacturing Program at York County Community College.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

**Summary**

Part L proposes an additional appropriation of \$2,000,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 budget years to the Maine Community College System to enable the System to reduce the backlog of student applicants into high demand courses of study that result in degrees or certifications that lead to the opportunity for graduates to obtain high wage jobs. In distributing the additional funds, the Board of the Community College System must give preference to reducing backlogs at Southern Maine Community College and York County Community College.

**PART M**

**Sec. M-1. 20-A MRSA §9** is amended to read:

**§9. Education Coordinating Committee**

The Education Coordinating Committee, referred to in this section as the "committee," is established to promote efficiency, cooperative effort and strategic planning between the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, and the Maine Maritime Academy and organizations and associations with a commitment to and interest in education matters. The committee consists of the Commissioner of Education, the Chair of the State Board of Education, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, the President of the Maine Community College System, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System, the President of the Maine Maritime Academy, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy, a representative of an association advocating for adult education issues; four members who represent businesses; a member who represents an organization advocating for early childhood education; and a member who represents a parent-teacher organization.

The committee shall meet at least twice each year quarterly. The commissioner shall convene the first meeting of the committee by October 15, 1995. The committee shall elect a chair from among its members to serve for a term to be determined by the committee. The committee shall report on its deliberations and any recommendations to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by February 15th each year.

**Sec. M-2. Appointing authority.** The Governor is the appointing authority for the additional membership of the Education Coordinating Committee required in section 1 of this Part.

**Summary**

Part M amends the laws governing the Education Coordinating Committee to require that the committee meet at least quarterly. It also expands the membership of the Committee to include representatives from a number of organizations and associations with a commitment to and interest in education issues.

## PART N

**Sec. N-1. Statewide internship portal.** The Commissioner of the Department of Labor shall work collaboratively and in partnership with the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, public and private colleges and universities in the State and private sector employees, both for-profit and non-profit, to expand the InternHelpME.com program, a statewide internship-matching program that connects employers, students, colleges and universities. The program provides a web-based search technology and a matching and reporting system that links students seeking internships to employer's who want to provide internship opportunities. The goal of the statewide platform is to encompass a wide-range of internship opportunities and provide a central access point.

**Sec. N-2. Advisory committee.** The Commissioner of the Department of Labor shall establish the InternHelpME Advisory Committee to assist the commissioner in program oversight and development, user policies, partnership and outreach activities and other program components and activities for which the commissioner seeks the committee's advice. The advisory committee shall consist of 13 members:

1. One representative from career services;
2. Two representative from an employer in this state with more than 100 employees;
3. Two representatives from employers in this state with fewer than 100 employees;
4. One representative of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce;
5. One representative from the University of Maine System;
6. One representative from the Maine Community College System;
7. One representative from a private college in this state;
8. One student enrolled in a college or university in this state;
9. **One representative of a statewide organization of nonprofits;**
10. One representative who is employed as a high school guidance counselor; and
11. One representative from an organization representing career and technology educators.

**Sec. N-3. Report.** The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and the President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce shall report by January 2, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters on the InternHelpME.com program. At a minimum, the report must address the number of workspaces on the InternHelpME.com website created in the prior two years by private and public colleges and universities; the number of students who have created workspaces, developed their profiles and posted resumes on the platform; the number of employers who have created workspaces and who are interested in providing internship opportunities; and the number internships posted to the platform.

**Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

Initiative: Provides funds that will be matched dollar for dollar by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce to expand InternHelpME.com, a statewide internship-matching program that links employers, students, colleges and universities.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

**Summary**

Part N proposes to provide \$50,000 in funding from the General Fund in each year of the 2014-15 biennium to be matched dollar for dollar by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce to expand InternHelpME.com, a statewide internship-matching program that links employers, students, colleges and universities. This Part also proposes to have the Commissioner of the Department of Labor establish a 13-member Advisory Committee to assist the commissioner in program oversight and development. This part also proposes to require a report on the expansion of the InternHelpME.com initiative to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters by January 2, 2015.

**PART O**

**Sec. O-1. Foreign-trained worker pilot project.** The Commissioner of Education, through the department’s Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy, shall establish a pilot project within the Portland Adult Education Program that creates a Welcome Center for foreign-trained workers with an emphasis on foreign-trained professionals. Initial funds provided to the pilot project must be used to employ a full-time coordinator. The coordinator shall work in cooperation and collaboration with the department to develop a series of programs designed to serve the needs of foreign-trained workers that will constitute a Welcome Center within the Portland Adult Education program. At a minimum, programs offered or coordinated by the Welcome Center must include education and career case management, English as a Second Language, referrals to legal assistance, employer networking and engagement, and data collection and analysis about foreign-trained workers in this State.

**Sec. O-2. Funding.** Securing ongoing funding to coordinate and sustain the Welcome Center initiative will be the primary responsibility of the coordinator. The coordinator, with assistance from the department, may seek funding from private sources, including individuals, foundations and corporations, and from other public sources.

**Sec. O-3. Report.** The Commissioner of the Department of Education shall report on the results of the foreign-trained worker Welcome Center pilot project by January 15, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over education matters. The report must include information on the number of foreign-trained workers who received assistance through the Welcome Center pilot project, the training and services provided, aggregate demographic information program participants, employment opportunities and placements, and a preliminary evaluation of programs and services that were most effective in meeting the needs of the Center’s users.

**Sec. O-4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy**

Initiative: Provides funding for a full-time Coordinator position for a pilot project to establish a foreign-trained worker Welcome Center within the Portland Adult Education program. The coordinator will develop and coordinate a comprehensive program designed to serve foreign-trained workers, with an emphasis on foreign-trained professionals, and to seek private funds to support Center programs and operations.

GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000

**GENERAL FUND TOTAL**

**\$75,000**

**\$75,000**

**Summary**

Part O proposes to provide a General Fund appropriation of \$75,000 in each year of the biennium to the Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy within the Department of Education for a full-time coordinator position for a pilot project that will establish the foreign-trained worker Welcome Center in the Portland Adult Education program.

**PART P**

**Sec. P-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**OPPORTUNITY MAINE**

**Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Program**

Initiative: Provides funding for the development, distribution and coordination of promotional materials and outreach activities for the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Program to high schools, colleges and universities, workforce training centers, chambers of commerce, parent and student organizations, and tax preparers and accountants, among others.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
All Other	\$60,000	\$40,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

**Sec. P-2. Educational Opportunity Tax Credit benefits outreach to businesses.** The commissioners of the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Labor shall, within existing resources, encourage businesses in the State to implement loan reimbursement as an employee benefit by including information about the business Educational Opportunity Tax Credit benefit and eligibility in any relevant communications from their respective departments to businesses in this State. The commissioners individually shall report on these outreach efforts to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters no later than January 2, 2015.

**Summary**

Part P proposes a General Fund appropriation of \$60,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$40,000 in fiscal year 2015 to Opportunity Maine for the development, distribution and coordination of promotional materials and outreach activities for the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Program. This Part also requires the commissioners of the departments of Economic and Community Development and Labor to encourage businesses to implement loan reimbursement as an employee benefit under the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Program through the departments' relevant communications to the business community. This Part also requires the commissioners to individual report on their respective department's outreach activities on the EOTC benefit by January 2, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development activities.

## SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the concept draft.

This amendment proposes the following.

### PART A

Part A proposes to require the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, in cooperation with the President and 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 System in order to complete their baccalaureate degrees. It also requires that the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Community College System study the feasibility of developing a common course numbering system and provide a plan and implementation schedule to the joint standing committee with jurisdiction over education matters no later than September 1, 2014. *(Pages 1-2 of this draft.)*

### PART B

Part B proposes to provide an additional General Fund appropriation of \$320,000 in each year of the 2013-2015 biennium to create four new degree programs 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. *(Page 3 of this draft.)*

### PART C

Part C proposes to provide a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$2,300,000 in the 2013-15 biennium to match \$2,300,000 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 educational credits to return to the University to complete their baccalaureate degrees. *(Page 4 of this draft.)*

### PART D

Part D proposes to establish the Task Force on Adult Learners. The task force consists of 25 members and is charged with studying issues related to the more than 200,000 adults in the State who have obtained some post-secondary education but who have not earned an associate's or baccalaureate degree or achieve a professional certificate. This part also requires the task force develop both short- and long-term strategies to increase adult degree completion rates in the state and to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than December 4, 2013. *(Pages 5-8 of this draft.)*

## PART E

Part E proposes to provide additional funding of \$300,000 in each year of the biennium to Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community to develop statewide capacity to deliver and coordinate a variety of workforce development training and services in all regions of the state. The initiative proposes that Women, Work and Community provide both online and place-based career planning classes for an additional 300 adults annually. This Part also requires that Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community report on the initiative to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters by January 1, 2015. *(Page 9 of this draft.)*

## PART F

Part F proposes to provide an annual appropriation of \$100,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 biennium to Jobs for Maine's Graduates, to be matched by funding from the business community, to further JMG's role as a resource support organization. This part proposes that JMG provide capacity, curriculum and professional development to assist 50 high schools in creating career preparation courses and local business networks to support career preparation activities. It also requires the Chief Executive Officer and President of Jobs for Maine's Graduates, Inc. to report by January 1, 2015 on the results of JMG's efforts to provide the resource support described in this initiative. *(Pages 10 of this draft.)*

## PART G

Part G proposes an additional appropriation of \$125,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 biennium to the Maine Quality Centers within the Maine Community College System to enable the Quality Centers to provide additional training to an estimated 450 incumbent workers across the state. The additional appropriation will be matched by an equal amount from the Maine Community College System. The funds will provide training for incumbent workers at existing businesses in the state with fewer than 50 employees. The funds may also be used to provide training for employees at existing businesses with 50 or more employees providing that those participating businesses provide at least 50% of the training costs. This Part also requires that the President of the Maine Community College System report on the incumbent worker training initiative by January 1, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce and economic development matters. *(Pages 11-12 of this draft.)*

## PART H

Part H proposes to require the election of members of career and technical education regional cooperative boards effective with calendar year 2014. This part also allows current members of cooperative boards to continue to represent their regional school units until an elected board member representing their unit is elected and seated. *(Pages 13-15 of this draft.)*

## PART I

Part I proposes to provide 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. *(Page 16 of this draft.)*

## PART J

PART J establishes the Maine Industry Partnerships program within the Department of Labor. It also proposes to require the Department to define industry clusters and to identify targeted industry clusters. This Part also proposes to establish the objectives for the Industry Partnerships program and to require the Department to provide staffing and other support for the program. It also establishes the Industry Partnerships Grant Program and requires the department to develop application and qualification criteria for that program. This Part also proposes to require the department to provide industry and labor market research to the Industry Partnerships and to establish a performance improvement and evaluation system for the partnerships. This Part also proposes a 2014-2015 biennial appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Department of Labor for the Maine Industry Partnership initiative. *(Pages 17-26 of this draft.)*

## PART K

Part K proposes to establish the Maine Skills Academy to create a process and methodology by which the skills credentials of the State's workforce may be aggregated and verified so they can be used to demonstrate a worker's competencies. It also proposes to establish the 14-member Maine Skills Academy Advisory Board and to charge it with creating the processes and methodologies by which skills will be evaluated and credited. *(Pages 27-28 of this draft.)*

## PART L

Part L proposes an additional appropriation of \$2,000,000 in each year of the 2014-2015 budget years to the Maine Community College System to enable the System to reduce the backlog of student applicants into high demand courses of study that result in degrees or certifications that lead to the opportunity for graduates to obtain high wage jobs. In distributing the additional funds, the Board of the Community College System must give preference to reducing backlogs at Southern Maine Community College and York County Community College. *(Page 29 of this draft.)*

## PART M

Part M proposes to amend the laws governing the Education Coordinating Committee to require that the committee meet at least quarterly. It also expands the membership of the Committee to include representatives from a number of organizations and associations with a commitment to and interest in education issues. *(Page 30 of this draft.)*

**PART N**

Part N proposes to provide \$50,000 in funding from the General Fund in each year of the 2014-15 biennium to be matched dollar for dollar by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce to expand InternHelpME.com, a statewide internship-matching program that links employers, students, colleges and universities. This Part also proposes to have the Commissioner of the Department of Labor establish a 13-member Advisory Committee to assist the commissioner in program oversight and development. This part also proposes to require a report on the expansion of the InternHelpME.com initiative to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters by January 2, 2015. *(Pages 31-32 of this draft.)*

**PART O**

Part O proposes to provide a General Fund appropriation of \$75,000 in each year of the biennium to the Office of Adult Education and Family Literacy within the Department of Education for a full-time coordinator position for a pilot project that will establish the foreign-trained worker Welcome Center in the Portland Adult Education program. *(Pages 33-34 of this draft.)*

**PART P**

Part P proposes an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$60,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$40,000 in fiscal year 2015 to Opportunity Maine for the development, distribution and coordination of promotional materials and outreach activities for the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Program. This Part also requires the commissioners of the departments of Economic and Community Development and Labor to encourage businesses to implement loan reimbursement as an employee benefit under the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Program through the departments' relevant communications to the business community. This Part also requires the commissioners to individually report on their respective department's outreach activities on the EOTC benefit by January 2, 2015 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development activities. *(Page 35 of this draft.)*

**Please note that this is a working draft prepared for committee discussion purposes. The content has not been adopted by the committee individually or collectively.**