

**STATE OF MAINE**  
126<sup>TH</sup> 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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*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**

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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

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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, IIII, JJJJ and KKKKK.

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

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**LD 516      An Act To Create the Integrated Manufacturing Program Fund      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE BOLAND	ONTP	

This bill establishes the Integrated Manufacturing Program Fund within the Maine Community College System to support the education and training of the manufacturing workforce in the State. The bill provides one-time funding and ongoing funding from the General Fund and requires the Maine Community College System to seek funds from the public and private sectors for deposit into the fund. The bill also provides that funds in fiscal years 2013-14 to 2017-18 must be disbursed to expand the capacity of the integrated manufacturing program at York County Community College. The bill further provides that the Legislature may not reduce General Fund appropriations to the Department of Education, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy in fiscal year 2013-14 to fund the Integrated Manufacturing Program Fund.

**LD 577      An Act To Clarify the Role of Career and Technical Education Region      ONTP**  
**Adult Education Programs**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHAPMAN	ONTP	

This bill includes adult education programs administered by a career and technical education region in the definition of "adult education" in the adult education laws and requires such a program to offer courses in at least one of the five basic course categories provided in statute. Current law includes only programs administered by school administrative units in the definition of "adult education" and requires school administrative units to offer courses in at least 3 of the course categories.

**LD 578      An Act To Award Academic Credit to Service Members for Military      ONTP**  
**Education, Experience and Training**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VILLA TUTTLE	ONTP	

This bill requires the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy to each develop a system of prior learning assessment to award academic credit to veterans or current members of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, for relevant experience, education and training obtained during military service. The University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy are directed to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by December 1, 2014 on progress in implementing these systems.

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**LD 737      An Act To Promote Workforce Development and Training in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Trades      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GERZOFSKY	ONTP	

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

This bill proposes to enact measures designed to promote collaboration between the State and a private sector training center focusing on training workers in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and energy efficiency and conservation trades that serves over 200 students per year. This bill is designed to promote public-private partnerships between the training center and state entities, 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.

The concept contained in this bill was incorporated into LD 1509, Part FFFFF-2. See the bill summary for LD 1509 under the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

**LD 960      Resolve, To Direct Eastern Maine Community College To Create Industry-specific Workplace Transition Educational Programming      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL R	ONTP	

This resolve requires Eastern Maine Community College to develop a pilot project that creates transition educational programming that begins in one or more secondary schools and continues at Eastern Maine Community College, where students develop skills specific to local businesses so that the skills can be immediately used by the local businesses who hire the students upon graduation from Eastern Maine Community College.

**LD 1172      An Act To Support the Maine Downtown Center      HELD BY GOVERNOR**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODALL DECHANT	OTP-AM ONTP	S-59 S-352 HILL

This bill provides ongoing support for the Maine Downtown Center.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-59)**

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

**Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-352)**

This amendment reduces the appropriation to the Maine Downtown Center to \$25,000, which is for fiscal year 2013-14 only.

*Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future*

**LD 1393 An Act To Encourage Entrepreneurial Investment in Maine**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODBURY BERRY		

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

This bill proposes to encourage entrepreneurial investment in Maine in a manner that emphasizes Maine's strengths, focuses on the dynamics of the future economy, envisions Maine's role in a global economy, expands access in Maine to cutting-edge technology, recognizes the importance of small businesses and research organizations as entrepreneurial incubators and emphasizes the advantages of Maine as a healthy and clean environment for families as well as for businesses.

The bill proposes to bring together groups of individuals on the cutting edge of entrepreneurship, innovation and economic philanthropy for the following purposes:

1. To identify innovative business models and financing options;
2. To bring together leaders in all aspects of business, social and cultural sectors in the State to serve as a guiding force for the State's economic future. The groups will marshal stakeholders in the State's future and draw on expertise and vision in the fields of business, education, science, technology, culture and the environment;
3. To identify Maine's strengths as the location of education and research institutions with worldwide reputations and significant natural resources and as the home of a working population with significant potential and a reputation for problem solving and hard work;
4. To identify areas where education and government resources can be reallocated to support the development of an entrepreneurial environment that will attract investment from outside as well as from inside the State by focusing on business sectors that have the best opportunity to grow by taking advantage of the State's strengths; and
5. To develop both a short-term and a long-term strategy for enhancing and increasing awareness of the State's advantages and opportunities for the creation of new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses. A short-term strategy will identify the areas of greatest need for infrastructure and services to support the development of the immediate resources needed for entrepreneurial development and the social and cultural resources that enhance the attractiveness of the State and develop a plan for meeting those needs. A long-term strategy will develop long-term goals and develop a plan and action steps for continuing growth and implementation of a methodology for maintaining the State's activities on the forefront of global opportunities.

This resolve was carried over to any special or regular session of the 126th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1145, as amended by H-B (H-580) and H-C (H-582).

**LD 1489 An Act To Address Maine's Immediate Workforce Needs**

**HELD BY  
GOVERNOR**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANGLEY GRANT	OTP-AM	S-194 S-364 HILL

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This bill creates the Maine Skills Gap Program to address the immediate hiring needs of Maine employers. Its goal is to encourage students and qualified experienced workers to take positions with Maine companies representing industries with significant unmet demand for skilled labor by reimbursing a portion of an employee's student debt or, in the absence of student debt, reimbursing a portion of an employee's housing expense during the employee's employment. The reimbursement is not subject to Maine income tax. A qualified employer will be considered eligible for reimbursement by the State under the Maine Employment Tax Increment Financing Program and will be reimbursed 50% of the qualified employer's employment, payroll and state income tax withholding taxes paid by the qualified employer for each qualified employee. The Maine Skills Gap Program is repealed March 31, 2021.

### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-194)**

This amendment replaces the bill and does the following.

1. It changes the name of the program created under the bill from the Maine Skills Gap Program to the Maine Workforce Opportunities Program.
2. It requires the Department of Economic and Community Development, in coordination with the Department of Labor, to create and maintain qualified employee and employer registries.
3. It charges the Department of Economic and Community Development with leading the marketing efforts to employers and employees of the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program, as well as all other existing incentive programs that are aimed at attracting new employees to Maine businesses.
4. It requires the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to report to the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Workforce and Economic Future and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development on the results of the marketing effort no later than January 15, 2014. It also requires the commissioner to study what the effect would be of including reimbursement of a qualified employee's housing costs as an incentive.
5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

### **Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-364)**

This amendment delays the implementation of the Maine Workforce Opportunities Program until July 1, 2014 and delays the reporting date of the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development until December 1, 2014. The amendment also removes the funding in fiscal year 2013-14 due to the delay of the implementation of the program.



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