



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1465

H.P. 957

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

**An Act to Create the Office of Workforce Advancement Within the
Department of Economic and Community Development and
Establish Statewide Workforce Advancement Goals**

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RANA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and
Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, GOLEK of Harpswell, ROEDER of Bangor, SKOLD
of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13053, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. P, §6, is further
3 amended to read:

4 The department shall encourage the creation and retention of quality jobs through
5 increased public, nonprofit and private sector investment and work to enhance the quality
6 of life for all by assisting local governments and nonprofit organizations to plan and
7 implement comprehensive community planning and development strategies.

8 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13055, sub-§1, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt. M, §2,
9 is further amended to read:

10 F. The Office of Community Development; ~~and~~

11 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13055, sub-§1, ¶G**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt. M, §2, is
12 amended to read:

13 G. The Office of Innovation; and

14 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §13055, sub-§1, ¶H** is enacted to read:

15 H. The Office of Workforce Advancement.

16 **Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §13062-B** is enacted to read:

17 **§13062-B. Office of Workforce Advancement**

18 The Office of Workforce Advancement is established within the department. The office
19 shall support the advancement of the State's workforce in coordination with the State
20 Workforce Board, established under Title 26, section 2006. The office shall reduce barriers
21 to workforce participation in areas such as health care, housing, child care, direct care,
22 education and training and increase investment in workforce participation.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill creates the Office of Workforce Advancement within the Department of
25 Economic and Community Development and directs the department to establish statewide
26 workforce advancement goals in coordination with the Department of Labor and other
27 stakeholders to grow the State's workforce and economy.