

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
S.P. 53 - L.D. 792

**An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Eligibility Provisions of the
Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3790-A, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 387, §1, is amended to read:

C. Is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate degree, industry-recognized certificate or similar credential in a field or occupation that ~~has at least an average job outlook as identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor~~ is identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information within the Department of Labor as having an annual job opening rate of at least 10% or as providing opportunity for employment in high-wage, in-demand jobs in the State at the time of enrollment. For fields or occupations ~~for which the job outlook is lower than average~~ not so identified, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee must approve the applicant's or participant's education plan. ~~If the applicant or participant is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate 4-year degree, it must be in a health care, technology or engineering field as specified in department rules if the plan will result in a postsecondary degree, certificate or similar credential that is universally recognized and accepted by the trade or industry in which the applicant or participant intends to seek employment or is part of a career pathway plan that will lead to a similarly accepted degree or credential and is likely to provide an opportunity for employment in a job that will lead to substantial improvement in the applicant's or participant's earnings and benefits;~~