

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

S.P. 561 - L.D. 1394

An Act to Expand and Strengthen the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1166, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 506, §1, is further amended to read:

B. "Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund planned yield" means the percentage of wages, as defined in section 1043, subsection 19, equal to ~~.02%~~ .034% of the total wages for each contributing employer subject to this chapter.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§1, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. "Certified preapprenticeship training program" means a preapprenticeship training program certified by the Maine Apprenticeship Program pursuant to section 3213.

Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§1, ¶D-1 is enacted to read:

D-1. "Preapprenticeship training program" has the same meaning as in section 3201, subsection 15-A.

Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§4, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. A registered apprenticeship program approved pursuant to section 3202 is deemed to have met the requirements of this subsection.

Sec. 5. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 352, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

A. The program must provide to a participant, in accordance with rules adopted by the department, when education, training and support are not reasonably available from another recognized program and are necessary to carry out that participant's plan:

- (1) Books, supplies, tools and equipment required by the participant's plan;
- (2) Child care, transportation and other necessary support as determined by the department; ~~and~~

(3) Assistance needed to obtain remedial or prerequisite education necessary for the participant to participate successfully in the program; and

(4) Related costs of licensing or certification necessary to practice in an occupation for which the individual is qualified.

Money for mandatory fees or tuition may not be provided unless the participant is not eligible for necessary funds from other public grants or scholarships reasonably available to the participant for this purpose.

Registered apprentices and individuals participating in a plan that includes a certified preapprenticeship training program approved pursuant to subsection 4 are eligible for services under this subsection, including those necessary to participate in any on-the-job learning component of the program, as long as the registered apprentices and individuals meet the requirement of subsection 5, paragraph C.

Sec. 6. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 352, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

7. Application; decision; appeal. An individual must be given the opportunity to make a written application for education, training and support available from the program and be given a prompt written decision from the department specifically indicating the type and amount of services approved or denied. The costs for an educational transcript, credential evaluation or similar requirement needed to determine eligibility for the program must be paid for by the program for any applicant who is otherwise eligible for participation, as determined by the department, if funds are not reasonably available from another source for this purpose. Any decision related to eligibility for, or the provision of, services under this section must provide notice that the decision may be appealed by the individual through a request for a hearing within 30 days of receipt of the decision in accordance with rules adopted by the department and consistent with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4. The 30-day appeal period may be extended up to 15 additional days if the claimant can show good cause for failing to appeal within the initial 30-day period.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Allocates funds to reflect an increase in the employer contribution rates for the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund.

COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
TOTAL		