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Date: (Filing No. H-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1253, L.D. 1684, “An Act To Strengthen Maine’s Workforce by Expanding English Language Acquisition and Workforce Training Programs”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, To Strengthen Maine's Workforce by Expanding English Language Acquisition and Workforce Training Programs'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Department of Education to establish a grant process for adult education programs for English language acquisition and workforce training programs. Resolved: That the Department of Education's office of adult education, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall establish a grant process to provide funding on a competitive basis to adult education programs of school administrative units in communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations or demand to reduce the waiting list for English language acquisition classes or to increase the levels, frequency or intensity of English language acquisition instruction offered as needed by the communities and to provide industry-specific English language acquisition combined with workforce training in the specific skill areas required for identified workforce needs of employers in this State in accordance with this resolve. The office shall award grants to eligible adult education programs in a number and amount determined by available funding.

Sec. 2. English language acquisition courses and workforce training grants. Resolved: That the amount of a grant under this resolve is determined by the office based upon the needs of the area to be served and the availability of funding. The office shall consider grants to cover all areas of the State with an emphasis on areas with large immigrant populations, where there is a need for skilled workers that training under this resolve may provide or areas with growing industries.

1. English language acquisition courses grants. An eligible proposal for an English language acquisition course grant under this subsection must include provisions for initiating or expanding English language acquisition courses for participating students.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **2. Industry-specific English language acquisition workforce training grants.** An
2 eligible proposal for a grant under this subsection must include provisions for:

3 A. Intensive industry-specific English language and vocabulary classes for
4 participating potential employees, including immigrants who have not yet received
5 federal work permits, newly hired employees and incumbent employees;

6 B. Intensive workforce training classes for participating potential employees,
7 including immigrants who have not yet received federal work permits, newly hired
8 employees and incumbent employees that include habits of work, including but not
9 limited to basic skills necessary to obtain, maintain and advance in employment, such
10 as interviewing and communications skills, and that acquaint immigrants with the
11 culture of the workplace;

12 C. Interviewing immigrant participants and identifying the education level, English
13 language ability, skill sets, work experience, qualifications and credentials of each
14 immigrant participant;

15 D. Collaboration with participating employers to:

16 (1) Identify the employers' specific workforce needs;

17 (2) Identify skills needed for positions required by the employers;

18 (3) Receive input from the employers for the design of the training classes under
19 this subsection, including information on required English language proficiency,
20 workplace culture, on-site space or other vocational training elements such as tools,
21 manuals or site tours;

22 (4) For proposals by specific employers to train newly hired or incumbent
23 employees, ensure that the employers provide the time and space to offer training
24 classes under this subsection on site at the employers' workplaces or, where that is
25 not feasible, that employers provide at no cost to participants supports such as
26 transportation and incentives to prioritize, encourage and facilitate employee
27 participation;

28 (5) Unless participating employers can establish that they have already undergone
29 such training within the 12 months prior to the grant submission date, ensure that,
30 within the first 12 months of participating in the grant process, employers receive
31 at least 12 hours of formal training on systemic bias and inequities and cultural
32 competency regarding bridging effectively across a wide variety of cultural
33 similarities and differences to help establish an inclusive workplace environment.
34 The office is not responsible for arranging for or providing this training; and

35 (6) Create industry-specific skills trainings in which small employers in a specific
36 sector can participate collectively where it is not practicable for them to offer
37 trainings as individual employers. These collective trainings need not take place
38 at an employer's workplace;

39 E. One or more training classes to prepare the immigrant participants as potential
40 employees to enter into and retain livable wage employment within 6 to 24 months of
41 the beginning of the training; and

42 F. Collection and reporting of data including outcomes of employment and job
43 retention.

1 The office shall give special consideration to proposals for grants under this subsection that
2 provide incentives for immigrants to participate in the training classes under this
3 subsection, such as agreements by employers to pay an employee the employee's hourly
4 rate while attending the training classes.

5 **3. Criteria for applicants.** An applicant for a grant under subsection 2 must have
6 demonstrated expertise and experience in the following:

7 A. Providing English language acquisition training, including the administration of
8 appropriate academic and vocational assessments and research-based instructional
9 approaches appropriate for English language learners;

10 B. Working with employers to develop relevant employee training; and

11 C. Working with partners in the state workforce and state agencies with expertise in
12 serving and preparing immigrants for employment through a case management
13 approach.

14 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the office shall provide a report concerning grants
15 awarded pursuant to this resolve to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and
16 Cultural Affairs by November 1, 2022 that includes:

17 1. The number and amount of grants awarded;

18 2. The training and services provided by the grant recipients or progress toward
19 establishing new programs to deliver the training and services;

20 3. Aggregate demographic information about immigrant participants in the training,
21 participating employers, employment opportunities, employment placements and retention
22 by employers of immigrant participants placed under this section; and

23 4. An evaluation of programs and services most effective in carrying out the purposes
24 of this resolve.

25 The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters
26 may report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature to continue the
27 grant process or to make it permanent.

28 **Sec. 4. Fund established. Resolved:** That the Industry-specific English Language
29 Acquisition and Workforce Training Grant Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund under
30 the Department of Education for the purpose of administering state grants funded by state
31 and federal allocations and other sources, including donations from private citizens,
32 corporations and entities for the purposes of this resolve. The department shall distribute
33 any available funds to support the purposes of this resolve.

34 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
35 appropriations and allocations are made.

36 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

37 **Industry-specific English Language Acquisition and Workforce Training Grant**
38 **Fund N386**

39 Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures of funds received from
40 federal sources for grants to adult education programs for English language acquisition and
41 workforce training programs.

1	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2021-22	2022-23
2	All Other	\$500	\$500
3			
4	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500
5	Industry-specific English Language Acquisition and Workforce Training Grant		
6	Fund N386		
7	Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures of funds received from		
8	private donations for grants to adult education programs for English language acquisition		
9	and workforce training programs.		
10	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
11	All Other	\$500	\$500
12			
13	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500
14			
15	EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
16	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2021-22	2022-23
17			
18	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$500	\$500
19	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
20			
21	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$1,000	\$1,000

22 '
 23 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
 24 number to read consecutively.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill with
 27 a resolve that directs the Department of Education's office of adult education to establish a
 28 competitive grant process for adult education programs of school administrative units in
 29 communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations or demand to reduce the
 30 waiting list for English language acquisition classes or to increase the levels, frequency or
 31 intensity of English language acquisition instruction offered as needed by the communities
 32 and to provide industry-specific English language acquisition combined with workforce
 33 training in the specific skill areas required for identified workforce needs of employers in
 34 this State. The office must consider grants to cover all areas of the State with an emphasis
 35 on areas with large immigrant populations, where there is a need for skilled workers that
 36 the training may provide or areas with growing industries.

37 The Department of Education must report to the Joint Standing Committee on
 38 Education and Cultural Affairs no later than November 1, 2022. The joint standing
 39 committee may report out a bill to the 131st Legislature to continue the grant process or
 40 make it permanent.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

