

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1050

S.P. 419

In Senate, March 7, 2023

Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Request a Federal Waiver to Allow Presumptive Work Eligibility for Asylum Seekers

Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec, KEIM of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, PERRY of Calais. 1 Sec. 1. Commissioner of Labor to request federal waiver to allow asylum 2 seekers to work in the State. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Labor shall request 3 a waiver from the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States 4 Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow asylum seekers to work in the State. The 5 waiver must request that any asylum seeker in the State who has applied for asylum and 6 who has not been denied asylum is eligible to work in the State:

7 1. For the 6-month period immediately after the asylum seeker has applied for asylum8 and is awaiting a decision on a pending asylum application; and

9 2. For any period of time following the expiration of the asylum seeker's existing 10 asylum work permit while the asylum seeker's application is pending renewal by the 11 Federal Government.

SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Commissioner of Labor to request a waiver from the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to allow an asylum seeker in the State, if the asylum seeker has applied for asylum and has not been denied, eligibility to work in the State for the 6-month period immediately after the asylum seeker has applied for asylum while awaiting a final determination on the asylum seeker's application and for the time period while an asylum seeker's work permit has expired and is pending renewal by the Federal Government.