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An Act To Sustain and Attract Skilled Workers to Maine by Improving the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1018 is enacted to read:

§ 1018. Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program liaison

A position is established within the authority to serve as liaison to assist a Maine resident with issues regarding participation in the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program established in Title 20-A, section 12542. Specifically, the liaison shall assist the Maine resident in communicating with secondary school guidance counselors, college career counseling services staff and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services and in other issues related to the Maine resident's participation in the program. For the purposes of this section, "Maine resident" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 12541, subsection 5.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12542, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 417, §2, is amended to read:

8. Publicity. To assist institutions of higher education to promote the program, the Finance Authority of Maine shall contract with a private nonprofit corporation in the amount of at least ~~\$20,000~~\$50,000 annually to market the program throughout the State, targeting high schools, postsecondary educational institutions and organizations of parents, teachers and other relevant audiences. Marketing efforts must include printed materials, online information and in-person promotional efforts.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a position within the Finance Authority of Maine to assist Maine residents in communicating with secondary school guidance counselors, college career counseling services staff and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services and in other issues related to the Maine resident's participating in the Job Creation Through Educational Opportunity Program. This bill also increases the amount to market the program throughout the State from \$20,000 to \$50,000.