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Legislative Document

No. 469

H.P. 345

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

An Act To Ensure Safety across Maine's Construction Industry

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ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.

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

- Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1304, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:
- **3-A.** Craft worker. "Craft worker" means a person who possesses experience and proficiency in a trade involved in building construction.
 - Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1317 is enacted to read:

§1317. Construction safety training requirements for craft workers

A contractor or subcontractor employing craft workers in the construction of public works shall require mandatory safety training for all craft workers in accordance with the requirements of this section.

- 1. Mandatory safety training. A contractor or subcontractor employing craft workers in the construction of public works shall require that all craft workers on the construction work site have completed a construction safety training program that uses a curriculum approved by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and is at least 10 hours in duration.
- 2. Proof of compliance. A contractor or subcontractor shall complete and submit to the Department of Labor as part of the contractor's or subcontractor's regular certified payroll submission process a signed statement of compliance that each craft worker has completed the training required in subsection 1.
- 3. Posting of affidavit on job site. A contractor or subcontractor shall post in a conspicuous location at each job site a signed affidavit that the contractor or subcontractor has met the requirements of this section.
- <u>4. Issuance of a cease operations order.</u> The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee may order a contractor or subcontractor to cease business operations if the commissioner or the commissioner's designee determines:
 - A. The contractor or subcontractor has failed to comply with this section; or
 - B. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee has previously determined that the contractor's or subcontractor's practice or policy resulted in a failure to comply with this section on more than one occasion or within the last 12 months.
- The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall provide the contractor or subcontractor notice and an opportunity to be heard 3 business days before the effective date of a cease operations order issued pursuant to this subsection. The issuance of a cease operations order constitutes final agency action. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall design the cease operations order as narrowly as is determined necessary. Any person who is aggrieved by the imposition of a cease operations order has 10 days from the date of service of the order to make a request to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee for a hearing. The hearing must be held within 7 business days of the request. The hearing officer shall issue a decision within 5 business days of the hearing.
- If a contractor or subcontractor refuses to obey an order to cease operations, that order may
 be enforced in Superior Court.

5. Stay of cease operations order. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee shall stay the issuance of a cease operations order under subsection 4, if the contractor or subcontractor provides evidence acceptable to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee that the contractor or subcontractor has met the requirements of this section.

6. Rules. The Commissioner of Labor may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

9 SUMMARY

This bill requires a contractor or subcontractor with a public works contract with the State of \$50,000 or more to certify all craft workers who will be on the construction site have taken a safety training program that uses a curriculum approved by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and that is at least 10 hours in duration. A contractor or subcontractor is required to provide proof of compliance by submitting a statement of compliance as part of its regular certified payroll submission. The contractor or subcontractor is required to display at the job site an affidavit showing compliance. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee is authorized to issue a cease operations order if a contractor or subcontractor is not in compliance. The Department of Labor is authorized to adopt rules to implement this section.