



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1308

H.P. 905

House of Representatives, April 4, 2017

**An Act To Create a Bridge to Self-sufficiency for Vulnerable
Segments of the Population by Providing Incentives to Employers**

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and
Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, Speaker GIDEON of Freeport, HERRICK of Paris,
HICKMAN of Winthrop, HYMANSON of York, JORGENSEN of Portland, TIPPING of
Orono, Senator: KATZ of Kennebec.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to implement programs to facilitate the transition of persons from
6 rehabilitation for drug or alcohol addiction or economic dependency to self-sufficiency
7 by providing employment opportunities while allowing their employers to reduce their
8 tax liability.

9 This bill would create a program, modeled on the federal Work Opportunity Tax
10 Credit program operated by the United States Department of Labor, to encourage
11 employers to hire from certain population segments, such as MaineCare and Medicare
12 recipients, veterans, persons in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program or
13 receiving general assistance, persons convicted of a crime who have been released from
14 prison, persons recently out of residential treatment or detoxification for substance use
15 disorder or who recently began medication-assisted treatment and disadvantaged teens.
16 The incentives would consist of tax credits based on the wages paid to qualified persons
17 and financial assistance for training costs.