



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 792

S.P. 53

In Senate, March 5, 2021

**An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Eligibility Provisions of
the Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program**

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3790-A, sub-§2, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 387, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 C. Is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate degree, industry-recognized certificate
5 or similar credential in a field or occupation that has at least an average number of job
6 ~~outlook~~ openings as identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information
7 within the Department of Labor. For fields or occupations for which the number of job
8 ~~outlook~~ is openings is lower than average, the commissioner or the commissioner's
9 designee must approve the applicant's or participant's education plan. If the applicant
10 or participant is pursuing a postsecondary undergraduate 4-year degree, it must be in a
11 ~~health care, technology or engineering~~ field as specified in department rules, which
12 must at a minimum specify the health care, technology, engineering and education
13 fields;

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill changes the term "job outlook" to "job openings" in the law governing the
16 Higher Opportunity for Pathways to Employment Program to better describe the criteria
17 for participation to be identified by the Center for Workforce Research and Information
18 within the Department of Labor. It provides that department rules must specify at minimum
19 the fields of health care, technology, engineering and education in the provision governing
20 approved postsecondary undergraduate 4-year degree programs.