



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 669

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S.P. 231

In Senate, February 28, 2017

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### **An Act To Address the Unmet Workforce Needs of Employers and To Improve the Economic Future of Workers**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KATZ of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative PIERCE of Dresden and  
Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, GRATWICK of Penobscot, LANGLEY of Hancock, LIBBY  
of Androscoggin, Representatives: DeCHANT of Bath, HARRINGTON of Sanford,  
MASTRACCIO of Sanford, RYKERSON of Kittery.

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 enact a comprehensive package of proposals designed to address  
6 the unmet workforce needs of employers and to improve the economic future of workers.  
7 These proposals may include, but are not limited to, proposals to:

- 8 1. Identify workforce needs;
- 9 2. Connect businesses with trained workers;
- 10 3. Maximize the benefits of educational assessment funding by focusing the funds on  
11 the students;
- 12 4. Provide incentives for educational institutions receiving state training funds to  
13 place graduates into the employment or school of the graduates' choice;
- 14 5. Strengthen the ability of the Maine Quality Centers, established in the Maine  
15 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12725, to fulfill their mission of meeting the  
16 workforce education and training needs of new and expanding businesses in the State and  
17 providing new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people;
- 18 6. Design diverse programs to meet the needs of Maine employers;
- 19 7. Prepare untrained workers to meet immediate and long-term needs;
- 20 8. Allow military training to count towards required training for certain certifications  
21 and licenses;
- 22 9. Establish a clearinghouse to connect workers with employers;
- 23 10. Identify educational programs necessary for specific types of employment and  
24 create a process to preemploy prospective workers while they are being trained;
- 25 11. Provide to people receiving public assistance the opportunity to permanently  
26 leave poverty behind by providing skills training that offers academic degrees,  
27 certifications or credentials and leads to employment with wages that can sustain  
28 families;
- 29 12. Establish workforce training programs targeted exclusively at individuals who  
30 are on public assistance or whose incomes meet certain criteria and provide transitional  
31 benefits including child care, health care, transportation supports and educational  
32 supports;

- 1           13. Align Maine's system of learning results with technical skills for current  
2 employment needs, support technical courses in high schools and integrate those courses  
3 with the high school curriculum and identify for middle school and secondary school  
4 students career paths that include alternatives that do not require college educations;
- 5           14. Identify barriers to the reentry by older citizens into the workforce;
- 6           15. Establish a program to identify and eliminate unfavorable tax policies with  
7 respect to retirement income and pensions and tax policies that discourage older citizens  
8 and retirees from returning to the workforce; and
- 9           16. Promote education to allow seniors to develop new skills.