



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 1137

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S.P. 406

In Senate, March 31, 2015

### **An Act To Promote Reemployment of Unemployed 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 Senators: COLLINS of York, CYRWAY of Kennebec, HASKELL of Cumberland, LANGLEY of Hancock, McCORMICK of Kennebec, VALENTINO of York.

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 improve reemployment opportunities for workers who are  
6 between jobs in several ways, including:

7 1. Adjusting orientation and training programs for unemployed workers to prepare  
8 those workers to take new jobs in the event their previous jobs may no longer exist due to  
9 the transformative nature of economic downturns;

10 2. Strengthening up-front assessment of worker skills, educational deficits and  
11 overall employability for purposes of shaping reemployment plans;

12 3. Enhancing the Department of Labor's enterprise option program through qualified  
13 use of other state programs designed to help innovative entrepreneurs establish  
14 businesses;

15 4. Formulating performance metrics for the unemployment compensation system that  
16 emphasize cycle times from job to job, measure the degree of wage restoration over time  
17 and assess the efficacy of the unemployment compensation system in placing workers in  
18 jobs; and

19 5. Requiring the Department of Labor to report regularly to the joint standing  
20 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over unemployment compensation  
21 matters on the effectiveness of these changes in helping unemployed workers become  
22 reemployed.