



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

---

Legislative Document

No. 1432

H.P. 1053

House of Representatives, April 7, 2011

**An Act To Expand Apprenticeship Programs and Scholarship  
Programs with Funding from Identification of Ineffective Economic  
Development Tax Incentives**

---

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  
Clerk

Presented by Representative STUCKEY of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Senator ALFOND of Cumberland and Representatives: FLEMINGS of Bar Harbor, GILBERT of Jay, HERBIG of Belfast, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senators: JACKSON of Aroostook, PATRICK of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §2006, sub-§5-A, ¶P** is enacted to read:

3 P. The committee shall establish and implement a program to promote and establish  
4 apprenticeships in high-wage, high-demand occupations. The program must be  
5 designed to address barriers to the use of apprenticeship; improve access to  
6 apprenticeship for women, minorities and people with low income; and provide a  
7 more efficient method for employers and workers to use apprenticeship as a talent  
8 development strategy customized to meet their needs. The committee shall develop  
9 and implement the program within the limit of funds available for this purpose and  
10 shall:

11 (1) Collaborate with industry associations in the State to identify opportunities  
12 for apprenticeships that meet the needs of the industries covered by those  
13 associations and that are in high-wage, high-demand jobs;

14 (2) Identify and develop specific requirements and qualifications for entry into  
15 apprenticeships and establish standards for corresponding preapprenticeship  
16 skills training programs that result in an industry-recognized credential certifying  
17 that the individual is ready to enter apprenticeship;

18 (3) Collaborate with the Department of Labor's career centers, workforce  
19 investment boards, a statewide system of centers that supports access to  
20 education and the workforce for women, a national organization that prepares  
21 women for transportation construction jobs, the Department of Labor, Bureau of  
22 Rehabilitation Services and other appropriate partners to identify, assess and  
23 prepare a pool of qualified candidates seeking to enter apprenticeship;

24 (4) Using funds appropriated to support this paragraph, enroll in the Competitive  
25 Skills Scholarship Program established in section 2033 all individuals who are  
26 eligible for services under that program and who are engaged in an  
27 apprenticeship or preapprenticeship skills training program under this paragraph;

28 (5) Provide for funds available under this paragraph to be used for on-the-job  
29 training, tuition, services available under the Competitive Skills Scholarship  
30 Program and other services necessary to implement this paragraph;

31 (6) Enter into formal agreements with industry associations and employers to  
32 hire apprentices directly from the pool of individuals who have successfully  
33 completed a preapprenticeship skills training program under this paragraph; and

34 (7) Register all newly employed apprentices with nationally recognized  
35 apprenticeship programs and ensure that the programs meet both state and federal  
36 apprenticeship standards.

37 **Sec. 2. Apprenticeship program.** The Department of Labor shall expand  
38 apprenticeship programs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 2006,  
39 subsection 5-A, including apprenticeships for high-wage, high-demand occupations under  
40 Title 26, section 2006, subsection 5-A, paragraph P, and increase the availability of  
41 scholarships for those apprenticeship programs under the Competitive Skills Scholarship

1 Program under Title 26, section 2033 to the extent permitted by revenue savings  
2 identified under section 3.

3 **Sec. 3. High-demand allied health care training programs.** The Maine  
4 Community College System shall develop and implement a plan to expand programs for  
5 training in high-demand allied health care occupations at all campuses of the Maine  
6 Community College System. The plan must provide for the creation of at least 2 classes  
7 of 10 students at each community college campus in the first year of the programs under  
8 the plan and 4 classes of 10 students at each campus in the 2nd year of the programs. The  
9 plan must provide that 2/3 of the enrollment in the programs must be reserved for  
10 participants in the apprenticeship program established under the Maine Revised Statutes,  
11 Title 26, section 2006, subsection 5-A, paragraph P and 2/3 of the students from the  
12 apprenticeship program must be eligible for the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program  
13 under Title 26, section 2033. The cost of implementing the plan under this section must  
14 be paid 1/3 by the Maine Community College System from existing funding and 2/3 from  
15 the General Fund. For the purposes of this section, "high-demand allied health care  
16 occupations" includes but is not limited to phlebotomists, medical laboratory technicians,  
17 medical technicians, radiology technicians, respiratory technicians, surgical technicians,  
18 physical therapists, occupational therapists and pharmacy technicians.

19 **Sec. 4. Funding.** The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services  
20 shall contract with the University of Maine System to perform an independent analysis of  
21 the tax expenditures identified as economic development incentives, as defined in the  
22 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13070-J, to evaluate the effectiveness of those  
23 incentives in fostering economic development in the State. The analysis must identify  
24 how economic development incentives can be modified to provide up to \$10,000,000 in  
25 revenue savings that are adequate to fund the expansion of the apprenticeship programs  
26 under Title 26, section 2006, subsection 5-A and the expansion of the Competitive Skills  
27 Scholarship Program established under Title 26, section 2033. The commissioner shall  
28 submit the analysis and the commissioner's recommendations to the Joint Standing  
29 Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development by January 15,  
30 2012.

31 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
32 allocations are made.

33 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE**

34 **Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556**

35 Initiative: Provides funds for 2/3 of the cost to implement a plan to expand training  
36 programs for high-demand allied health care occupations.

37

38 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
39 All Other	\$840,000	\$1,680,000

1

**SUMMARY**

2           This bill requires the Maine Jobs Council, through the Standing Committee on  
3 Apprenticeship, to establish apprenticeships in high-wage, high-demand occupations and  
4 requires the Department of Labor to increase the availability of apprenticeship programs  
5 and competitive skills scholarships for students in apprenticeship programs. The bill also  
6 requires the Maine Community College System to expand training programs for  
7 high-demand allied health care occupations. The Commissioner of Administrative and  
8 Financial Services is directed to contract with the University of Maine System to evaluate  
9 tax expenditures identified as economic development incentives for effectiveness and to  
10 identify up to \$10,000,000 in revenue savings to fund the expansions in apprenticeships  
11 and scholarships.