



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0023

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

March 27, 2025

Senator Curry, Senate Chair
Representative Gere, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and distinguished members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee:

LD 967, An Act to Reinvigorate Maine's Workforce and Ensure Student Job Readiness by Providing Funds for the Career Exploration Program would provide on-going funding to make a permanent position to support the Career Exploration Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development.

The Maine Department of Education appreciates the sponsor's efforts to support new experiences and career explorations for our young people. Maine's Career Exploration (MCE) Program aims to help students and families to connect to Maine's economy by offering age-appropriate opportunities to explore career paths that are in line with individual areas of interests. This program offers paid work experience for Maine's youth ages 16-24 and was initially funded by the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan. A portion of these funds supported career exploration work offered by Jobs for Maine Graduates at high schools and career and technical education programs, as well as adult education programs. A primary goal of Maine Career Exploration was to connect 6,000 young people in Maine to future career opportunities with paid work experiences in two years (2022-2024) and the goal was exceeded with 6,066 young people being reached.

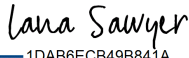
To date, extended learning opportunities (ELOs) have been expanded to a total of 26 grantees, beginning in 2022. As a result, students had 2,033 paid work experiences. The majority of these (1,433) also provided high school credit.

This bill would allow the Maine Career Exploration Program to continue its strong programming infrastructure that has facilitated growth of paid meaningful work experiences and career exploration throughout the state. The statewide position has strengthened and coordinated connections with businesses and employers as well broadening availability and access to diverse paid work opportunities for young people. At the state and local level, there has been a synergistic and impactful relationship between this position and local educators in building connections between communities and employers.

The Maine 2020-2029 Economic Development Strategy had a reset in 2024 that focused on the following six strategies to strengthen Maine's economy: grow local talent, attract new talent, promote innovation, build connections, provide supporting infrastructure, maintain a stable business environment, and promote hubs of excellence. A defined action step in Maine's Economic Development Strategy 2024 Reset (A6), sustainable coordination of the Maine Career Exploration Program, is integral in expanding meaningful work-based learning experiences for Maine's youth and connecting current employers to Maine's future workforce.

The Department will be available to provide additional information on L.D. 967 and respond to any questions during the upcoming work session

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

1DAB6ECB49B841A...

Lana Sawyer
Extended Learning Coordinator

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 015031DB-592B-4972-A7E9-916DD5C86B65	Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with Docusign: LD 967 Info Letter Final.docx	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 2	Signatures: 1
Certificate Pages: 4	Initials: 0
AutoNav: Enabled	Envelope Originator:
Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled	Danielle Mckay
Time Zone: (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)	Danielle.Mckay@maine.gov
	IP Address: 108.183.185.149

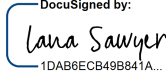
Record Tracking

Status: Original	Holder: Danielle Mckay	Location: DocuSign
3/25/2025 9:00:37 AM	Danielle.Mckay@maine.gov	
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: StateLocal	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: Maine Department of Education	Location: Docusign

Signer Events

Lana Sawyer
 lana.sawyer@maine.gov
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

DocuSigned by:

 1DAB6ECB49B841A...
 Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
 Using IP Address: 45.46.37.150

Timestamp

Sent: 3/25/2025 9:03:14 AM
 Viewed: 3/25/2025 9:03:49 AM
 Signed: 3/25/2025 9:04:01 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
 Accepted: 12/16/2022 2:09:08 PM
 ID: c328b0a7-e133-4836-a4be-38e3a0533c46

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	3/25/2025 9:03:14 AM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	3/25/2025 9:03:49 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	3/25/2025 9:04:01 AM
Completed	Security Checked	3/25/2025 9:04:01 AM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure		