



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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

April 22, 2021

Senator Joseph Rafferty, Co-chair
Representative Michael Brennan, Co-chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Committee,

LD 1329, An Act To Establish the Career Advancement and Navigation Initiative in the Department of Education To Lower Barriers to Career Advancement. This bill amendment seeks to create a statewide Career Advancement and Navigation Initiative to provide educational and career guidance, support, and services to help underemployed and unemployed individuals acquire education, skills, licensure or other preparation needed to participate to their fullest potential in the workforce. Goals include such things as providing intensive foundational skills, work-readiness and if needed, contextualized, industry specific English language instruction and support services to accelerate entrance into employment within 12 to 24 months of entering the programs.

This work would be conducted at the School Administrative Unit (SAU) level by locally hired career advancement and navigation specialists with funding being disbursed by the Department of Education to established adult education hubs. Specialists will collaborate and partner with employers, trade association, public and state agencies, and private sector entities to develop and implement the initiative. They will also deliver and coordinate services for participants through adult education hubs in accordance with this subsection. During the first 2 years of the initiative, the career advancement and navigation specialists will serve participants in adult education hubs associated with the following areas: Kennebec County; Androscoggin and Oxford County; Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc and Waldo Counties; and York County.

Currently, 70 adult education providers throughout the state serve over 11,000 learners to address academics, workforce training, and English language acquisition. National and statewide data shows that a key factor in learner retention and success is access to effective advising and support services. While Maine's local providers take great steps to create relationships with all learners that include academic, career, and life planning services, there are only 12 full-time and 26 part-time advisors in our system and many of them work in more than one local program. That leaves current advisors with little or no time to create the types of collaborations, partnerships and coordination that the proposed Navigators will be able to do.

The intent of the bill aligns with the Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029 Strategy A Grow Local Talent, Action A4: Engage today's workers in continuing education to achieve credentials for career advancement and recognizes "the need to help adult workers, who are now (or could be) in the workforce, to upgrade their skills so that they can qualify for better-paying

jobs- and to simply keep their own jobs, which will require new skills as technology changes.” With that being said, the bill amendment removed the responsibility of the program from the Department and reassigned it to the SAUs.

The Department remains deeply committed to preparing all students to achieve the competencies needed to thrive in Maine’s future economy. We will continue to work with our partners statewide to build an ecosystem of support for life and career readiness in ways that are meaningful in the workplace and support individuals as they strive to achieve their goals.

The Maine Department of Education is happy to provide additional information regarding LD 1329 and answer questions during the upcoming work session.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Gail Senese
F296A73F71414EC...
Gail Senese, Ph.D.
State Director of Adult Education

DocuSigned by:
Diana Doiron
659442BF91CA433...
Diana Doiron
Maine Learning Results
Life and Career Ready Specialist

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: FA233F40FAD74736A699178605CA6E9F	Status: Completed
Subject: Please DocuSign: LD 1329 Informational Letter FINAL.docx	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 2	Signatures: 2
Certificate Pages: 2	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: 108.183.185.51

Record Tracking

Status: Original 4/22/2021 9:24:15 AM	Holder: Danielle Mckay Danielle.Mckay@maine.gov	Location: DocuSign
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: StateLocal	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: Carahsoft OBO Maine Department of Education	Location: DocuSign

Signer Events

Gail Senese
Gail.Senese@maine.gov
Carahsoft OBO Maine Department of Education
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

DocuSigned by:
Gail Senese
F296A73F71414EC...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
Using IP Address: 75.69.17.17

Timestamp

Sent: 4/22/2021 9:26:00 AM
Viewed: 4/22/2021 9:35:32 AM
Signed: 4/22/2021 9:36:12 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

Diana Doiron
Diana.Doiron@maine.gov
Carahsoft OBO Maine Department of Education
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

DocuSigned by:
Diana Doiron
659442BF91CA433...

Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style
Using IP Address: 98.0.37.90

Sent: 4/22/2021 9:36:13 AM
Viewed: 4/22/2021 9:56:07 AM
Signed: 4/22/2021 9:56:25 AM

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:
Not Offered via DocuSign

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	4/22/2021 9:26:00 AM

Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	4/22/2021 9:56:07 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	4/22/2021 9:56:25 AM
Completed	Security Checked	4/22/2021 9:56:25 AM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
-----------------------	---------------	-------------------