

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 378 - L.D. 515

An Act To Create New Models of Maine Manufacturing Employment and Education

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11, sub-§3, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 346, §2, is amended to read:

D. Devise strategies for promoting career and technical education alignment and supporting early career planning and transition supports from high school to college and to the workforce; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §11, sub-§3, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 346, §2, is amended to read:

E. Propose methods for integrating out-of-school programs focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics with school-based programs, with the goal of inspiring more students to concentrate in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §11, sub-§3, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. Coordinate the development of higher education programs and public-private partnerships to enhance higher education and employment opportunities in the State in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Sec. 4. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics program development for education and employment. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11, referred to in this section as "the council," shall engage with the University of Maine System under Title 20-A, chapter 411, the Maine Community College System under Title 20-A, chapter 431, adult education programs under Title 20-A, chapter 315, the Finance Authority of Maine under Title 10, section 964, the Loring Development Authority of Maine under Title 5, section 13080 and private sector stakeholders to develop proposals for the following programs and initiatives to promote new models of manufacturing education and employment in the State:

1. A 5-year dual degree program through the University of Maine System in green technology and entrepreneurship, along with a scholarship program for students in the program and seed funding for business development in green manufacturing;
2. A 5-year dual degree program in educational communication and digital technology based within the University of Maine System to develop and prepare educators for remote communication, learning and training platforms;
3. A dual degree program in accounting and green technology based within the University of Maine System;
4. A platform for occupational licensing in educational communication and digital technology that addresses the needs of new residents of the State, including but not limited to immigrants and refugees;
5. An associate degree program, supported by public-private funding, to train students in green engineering and technology based within the Maine Community College System;
6. An apprenticeship program in green technology and employment, including but not limited to apprenticeships in solar farm development and operation;
7. Financing options through the Finance Authority of Maine or other appropriate entities for graduates of educational and apprenticeship programs described in this section to develop new businesses;
8. A solar steam train facility based at the Loring Development Authority of Maine. The proposal may include, but is not limited to, tax incentives, financing from the Finance Authority of Maine or other appropriate entities, formation of a committee to oversee development and outreach to create a public-private partnership and shared ownership between the State and employees of the facility; and
9. A committee to examine the transition to electric transportation infrastructure and development of manufacturing opportunities to support that transition.

For the purposes of this section, "green" means relating to or concerned with reducing negative short-term and long-term effects on the environment.

With the approval of 2/3 of the council and notwithstanding Title 20-A, section 11, subsection 10, the council may seek and receive private funds as needed to further its activities.

The council shall submit a report including the proposals required by this section to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. The report must be submitted no later than December 1, 2021. After receipt of the report required by this section, a joint standing committee may report out a bill based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council Z175

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures in the event private funds are received to support the activities of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Council related to the development of higher education programs and public-private partnerships to enhance higher education and employment opportunities in the State in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>