



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 515

H.P. 378

House of Representatives, February 19, 2021

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 17, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: CUDDY of Winterport, O'NEIL of Saco, Senator: CHIPMAN of
Cumberland.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 **Sec. 4. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics program**
18 **development for education and employment.** The Science, Technology, Engineering
19 and Mathematics Council under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11,
20 referred to in this section as "the council," shall engage with the University of Maine
21 System under Title 20-A, chapter 411, the Maine Community College System under Title
22 20-A, chapter 431, adult education programs under Title 20-A, chapter 315, the Finance
23 Authority of Maine under Title 10, section 964, the Loring Development Authority of
24 Maine under Title 5, section 13080 and private sector stakeholders to develop proposals
25 for the following programs and initiatives to promote new models of manufacturing
26 education and employment in the State:

27 1. A 5-year dual degree program through the University of Maine System in green
28 technology and entrepreneurship, along with a scholarship program for students in the
29 program and seed funding for business development in green manufacturing;

30 2. A 5-year dual degree program in educational communication and digital technology
31 based at the University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine at Farmington to
32 develop and prepare educators for remote communication, learning and training platforms;

33 3. A dual degree program in accounting and green technology at the University of
34 Maine at Presque Isle;

35 4. A platform for occupational licensing in educational communication and digital
36 technology that addresses the needs of new residents of the State, including but not limited
37 to immigrants and refugees;

38 5. An associate degree program, supported by public-private funding, to train students
39 in green engineering and technology based at Central Maine Community College;

40 6. An apprenticeship program in green technology and employment, including but not
41 limited to apprenticeships in solar farm development and operation;

1 7. One or more loan programs through the Finance Authority of Maine for graduates
2 of educational and apprenticeship programs described in this section to develop new
3 businesses;

4 8. A solar steam train facility based at the Loring Development Authority of Maine.
5 The proposal must include, but is not limited to, tax incentives, financing from the Finance
6 Authority of Maine, formation of a committee to oversee development and outreach to
7 create a public-private partnership and shared ownership between the State and employees
8 of the facility; and

9 9. A committee to examine the transition to electric transportation infrastructure and
10 development of manufacturing opportunities to support that transition.

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

13 The council shall submit a report including the proposals required by this section to the
14 Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing
15 Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. The
16 report must be submitted no later than January 15, 2022. After receipt of the report required
17 by this section, a joint standing committee may report out a bill based upon the report to
18 the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill requires the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council to
21 coordinate the development of higher education programs and public-private partnerships
22 to enhance higher education and employment opportunities in the State in science,
23 technology, engineering and mathematics. It directs the council to engage with the
24 University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, adult education
25 programs, the Finance Authority of Maine, the Loring Development Authority of Maine
26 and private sector stakeholders to develop proposals for a series of programs and initiatives
27 to promote new models of manufacturing education and employment in the State.