

## CHAPTER 159

### COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

#### §1901. Program

There is established a State Government cooperative education support program for the purpose of providing work opportunities in state institutions and agencies to Maine residents enrolled as full-time students in approved post-secondary universities, colleges or institutes in Maine. [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).

#### §1902. Purposes

**1. Purposes.** The purposes of the program are:

A. To permit state agencies to employ qualified students enrolled in post-secondary cooperative education programs without regard to personnel count; [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

B. To provide students with practical experiences related to their field of study which can only be obtained through full-time employment; [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

C. To assist students to defray higher education costs; [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

D. To lessen the demand for work during the summer months and disperse it throughout the entire year; [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

E. To provide department or agency heads with the opportunity of observing and evaluating potential employees on the job thus facilitating the recruitment and selection of personnel to fill state openings; [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

F. To stimulate interest in employment in the State of Maine on the part of college educated students. [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

[PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).

#### §1903. Procedure

The employment of students enrolled in cooperative education programs in approved colleges, universities or institutes in the State of Maine is hereby authorized. Appropriate department, agency or institution heads may employ such students through the use of funds resulting from unfilled positions in their personal services budgets. [PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW).]

Each student must be approved by the institution the student attends and the agency, department or institution head. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. B, §60 (COR).]

Appropriate department, agency or institution heads may request the employment of cooperative education students on a form provided by the Bureau of Human Resources. Approval by the State Human Resources Officer and the State Budget Officer will constitute approval for a student to be employed. Only cooperative education programs that require full-time employment for a period of not less than 10 weeks shall be included. Cooperative education students will be classified as project employees and will be governed by all policies and entitled to all rights and privileges afforded such

employees, except that they shall be paid at the prevailing minimum wage. [PL 1985, c. 785, Pt. B, §33 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. D, §3 (REV).]

The restrictions regarding full-time employment and payment at minimum wage shall not apply to the cooperative education support program between the Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Maine System for the training of psychologists. [PL 1985, c. 779, §20 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. K, §82 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. K, §83 (AFF); PL 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 211 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 766, §4 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 580, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 779, §20 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 785, §B33 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §K82 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 560, §K83 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 354, §3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §B6 (REV). PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. D, §3 (REV). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. B, §60 (COR).

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