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An Act To Require United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration Training for Government Construction Contracts

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1309-A is enacted to read:

§ 1309-A. Contract to contain provisions relative to occupational health and safety training

1. Training requirement. A contractor or subcontractor in charge of the construction for a public works contract shall have a United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hour construction safety program for its on-site employees, other than those exempt under subsection 2. A nonexempt employee is required to complete the program prior to beginning work. The training program must use a curriculum approved by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration and certify the successful completion of the training program.

For purposes of this subsection, "public works contract" means any contract for public works with a total project cost of \$100,000 or more.

2. Exempt individuals. The training requirement under subsection 1 does not apply to:

- A. Law enforcement officers involved with traffic control or work site security;
- B. Flagging personnel who have completed the training required by the Department of Transportation;
- C. All relevant federal, state and municipal government employees and inspectors; and
- D. All individuals who are not considered to be on the work site under the federal Davis-Bacon Act, 40 United States Code, section 276a et seq., including, but not limited to, construction and nonconstruction delivery personnel and nontrade personnel.

3. Penalties and enforcement. Notwithstanding the penalties provided in section 1312, a contractor or subcontractor in charge of construction for a public works contract who willfully and knowingly violates this section is subject to:

- A. Removal from the work site by the Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee of an employee who does not provide documentation of the employee's having met the training requirement under subsection 1 by the 15th day after the date the employee is found to be in noncompliance. Proof of such documentation provided by the contractor or subcontractor constitutes compliance with this section;

B. A fine of no more than \$2,500; and

C. An additional fine of \$100 per employee in noncompliance with this section for each day of noncompliance.

The Commissioner of Labor shall appoint as many individuals as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Department of Labor under this section.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that a contractor or subcontractor entering into a public works contract that is for \$100,000 or more provide proof of documentation demonstrating that all nonexempt employees working on that project have completed a construction safety program, no shorter than 10 hours in duration, approved by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The exempt employees include law enforcement officers involved in traffic control or work site security, flagging personnel who have completed the training required by the Department of Transportation, all relevant federal, state and municipal government employees and inspectors and all individuals who are not considered to be on the work site under the federal Davis-Bacon Act.

The bill also specifies, notwithstanding fines provided in existing law, that a contractor or subcontractor who willfully and knowingly violates these requirements is subject to removal of an employee from the work site and the assessment of fines.