



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 890

S.P. 256

In Senate, February 19, 2019

**An Act To Expand Workforce Access by Creating Apprenticeship
Programs To Increase Access to Licensure in Certain Occupations**

Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick and
Senators: DESCHAMBAULT of York, FARRIN of Somerset, GUERIN of Penobscot,
HERBIG of Waldo.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to enact the Expanded Workforce Access Act of 2019, which will
6 authorize the use of apprenticeships as an alternative means of obtaining licenses to
7 perform certain occupations. Occupations included under this Act may include, but are
8 not limited to, barbering or limited barbering and nail technology.

9 This bill will expand access to the workforce by allowing individuals to fulfill
10 licensing requirements through participation in apprenticeship programs, thus allowing
11 participants to earn a paycheck at the same time as they acquire hands-on training and
12 experience. Under this bill:

13 1. The licensing boards for the occupations that are included in this expanded
14 apprenticeship program will grant licenses to applicants who meet criteria established by
15 the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation;

16 2. The criteria established may include, without limitation:

17 A. Successful completion of the 8th grade;

18 B. Completion of an apprenticeship that is approved by the Department of Labor or
19 the United States Department of Labor or in accordance with any applicable state or
20 federal law. For purposes of this bill, "apprenticeship" is defined as a program that
21 meets the federal guidelines set out in 29 United States Code, Section 50 and 29 Code
22 of Federal Regulations, Part 29; and

23 C. Successful completion of any necessary examination, as determined by the
24 Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. The passing score on an
25 examination for a participant in the expanded apprenticeship model may not exceed
26 the passing score that is otherwise required under the rules adopted by the applicable
27 licensing board. If the rules adopted by the applicable licensing board do not
28 otherwise require successful completion of an examination, an examination may not
29 be required for participation in the expanded apprenticeship program.

30 3. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation will be required to
31 adopt rules necessary to implement the expanded apprenticeship program, including
32 limitations on the length of and the numbers of hours required by each authorized
33 apprenticeship.