

# SUPPORT\*

**LD 829 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Transportation, Broadband Infrastructure, Downtown Revitalization, Land for Maine's Future and Training Facilities in Labor Market areas with Higher than Average Unemployment for Tourism-related Training:**

**Sponsor:** Representative MCCABE of Skowhegan

**Co-Sponsors:** Representatives CAREY of Lewiston, EVES of North Berwick, GOODE of Bangor, HUNT of Buxton, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, ROTUNDO of Lewiston, and Senator PATRICK of Oxford.

**Summary:** This is a five-year, \$100 million bond to provide funds for tourism-related training in parts of the state that have higher than average unemployment rates. Training would be provided by six existing state programs: the Transportation Capital Work Plan, Communities for Maine's Future, ConnectMe Authority, Land for Maine's Future Program, University of Maine System, and Maine Community College System.

**Explanation:** This bill would provide \$20 million for tourism training in each of five different economic sectors that currently exist in the more rural parts of the state: transportation, conservation, education, downtown revitalization and internet expansion.

The strategy behind this bond is to strengthen Maine's economy through training-related investments that build on existing, successful initiatives – including the Land for Maine's Future program. Land conservation can help increase tourism-related economic activities throughout Maine, including in rural areas. By providing funds directly to the Land for Maine's Future Program, this bill would help residents of regions where land conservation is taking place to develop the skills to benefit economically from increased land conservation.

**\* NRCM supports the portion of this bill that provides \$20 million to the Land for Maine's Future Program; NRCM is Neither For Nor Against the remainder of the bill.**