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## 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## **FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009**

Legislative Document

No. 206

H.P. 171

House of Representatives, January 21, 2009

**Resolve, To Fund the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program** 

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative DRISCOLL of Westbrook. Cosponsored by Senator TRAHAN of Lincoln and Representatives: CLARK of Millinocket, CONNOR of Kennebunk, PENDLETON of Scarborough, PERRY of Calais, STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland, TUTTLE of Sanford, Senators: BARTLETT of Cumberland, JACKSON of Aroostook.

- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- Whereas, the average age of the 20,597 nurses in the State this year who renewed their nursing licenses is 50.5 years of age, older than the average age of nurses nationally; and
- 6 Whereas, nurse faculty members generally are older workers with an average age of
  7 54.5 years and nearly 1/3 of faculty in the State's nursing education programs do not plan
  8 to be working in 5 years; and
- 9 Whereas, the State's schools of nursing continue to turn away qualified applicants 10 due to a lack of faculty needed to expand the nursing programs to accommodate more 11 students; and
- Whereas, the State created the nursing education loan repayment program under the
   Finance Authority of Maine to address the critical need for qualified faculty in the State's
   schools of nursing; and
- 15 Whereas, the nursing education loan repayment program has never received 16 funding; and
- Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
  the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
  immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
  therefore, be it
- **Sec. 1. Nursing education loan repayment program. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of Education are directed to research federal funding sources to fund the nursing education loan repayment program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 1019 and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2010 with suggested plans to obtain federal funding from the sources identified.
- 28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this 29 legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

- 30
- This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor and the Department of Education to research federal funding sources to fund the nursing education loan repayment program and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services with suggested plans to obtain federal funding.