

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1688

H.P. 1123

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

An Act to Encourage Continuing Education Relating to Certain Infection-associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RANA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and
Representatives: JULIA of Waterville, MATHIESON of Kittery, ROEDER of Bangor,
Senators: BAILEY of York, INGWERSEN of York.

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §2158 is enacted to read:

§2158. Medical education relating to infection-associated chronic conditions

The board shall encourage a licensee or applicant for relicensure under this chapter to attend continuing education, including continuing education required for licensure of an advanced practice registered nurse, relating to infection-associated chronic conditions, including long COVID, chronic Lyme disease, myalgic encephalomyelitis, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome and dysautonomia. For purposes of this section, "long COVID" means a group of health problems related to and persisting or developing after an initial period of COVID-19 infection that may be debilitating and may last from several weeks to a period of years and "COVID-19" has the same meaning as in Title 24-A, section 4320-P, subsection 1, paragraph A.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2581, as amended by PL 2017, c. 189, §1, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

The board shall encourage a licensee or applicant for relicensure to attend continuing education approved by the board under this section relating to infection-associated chronic conditions, including long COVID, chronic Lyme disease, myalgic encephalomyelitis, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome and dysautonomia. For purposes of this paragraph, "long COVID" means a group of health problems related to and persisting or developing after an initial period of COVID-19 infection that may be debilitating and may last from several weeks to a period of years and "COVID-19" has the same meaning as in Title 24-A, section 4320-P, subsection 1, paragraph A.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §3280-A, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Continuing medical education relating to infection-associated chronic conditions. The board shall encourage a licensee to attend continuing medical education under subsection 2, paragraph B, relating to infection-associated chronic conditions, including long COVID, chronic Lyme disease, myalgic encephalomyelitis, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome and dysautonomia. For purposes of this subsection, "long COVID" means a group of health problems related to and persisting or developing after an initial period of COVID-19 infection that may be debilitating and may last from several weeks to a period of years and "COVID-19" has the same meaning as in Title 24-A, section 4320-P, subsection 1, paragraph A.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Board of Osteopathic Licensure, the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the State Board of Nursing to encourage licensees and applicants for relicensure to attend continuing education relating to infection-associated chronic conditions, including long COVID, chronic Lyme disease, myalgic encephalomyelitis, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome and dysautonomia.