

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1720**

S.P. 673

In Senate, April 17, 2025

### **An Act Regarding Benefits and Training for Long-term Care Workers**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor and  
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, DHALAC of South  
Portland, ROEDER of Bangor, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland.

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

2       **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1, ¶L**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 20, §2, is further  
3 amended to read:

4       L. Any employee of an academy approved for tuition purposes in accordance with  
5 Title 20-A, sections 2951 to 2955; ~~and~~

6       **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1, ¶M**, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 20, §3, is amended  
7 to read:

8       M. A retired county or municipal law enforcement officer or retired municipal  
9 firefighter who meets the requirements for coverage under subsection 11-A; and

10       **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§1, ¶N** is enacted to read:

11       N. A nurse, certified nursing assistant, direct care worker, other qualified health care  
12 professional or ancillary support worker including housekeeping and dietary staff  
13 employed by a nursing home licensed under Title 22, chapter 405 or a residential care  
14 facility licensed under Title 22, chapter 1664.

15       **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17001, sub-§14, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 402, Pt. A,  
16 §§64 and 65, is further amended to read:

17       A. For purposes of this chapter, a state employee, including any person serving during  
18 any probationary period required under the Civil Service Law and rules of the Civil  
19 Service Appeals Board, a teacher or a participating local district employee or a long-  
20 term care worker;

21       **Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §17001, sub-§19-C** is enacted to read:

22       **19-C. Long-term care worker.** "Long-term care worker" means a nurse, certified  
23 nursing assistant, direct care worker, other qualified health care professional or ancillary  
24 support worker including housekeeping and dietary staff employed by a nursing home  
25 licensed under Title 22, chapter 405 or a residential care facility licensed under Title 22,  
26 chapter 1664.

27       **Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §1708, sub-§3, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 594, §1, is further  
28 amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

29       (2) Uses the applicable regional inflation factor as established by a national  
30 economic research organization selected by the department to adjust costs other  
31 than labor costs or fixed costs; ~~and~~

32       **Sec. 7. 22 MRSA §1708, sub-§3, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 29, Pt. R, §1, is  
33 further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

34       Any rebasing done pursuant to this paragraph may not result in a nursing facility  
35 receiving a reimbursement rate that is lower than the rate in effect on June 30, 2018;:

36       **Sec. 8. 22 MRSA §1708, sub-§3, ¶G** is enacted to read:

37       G. Ensure that the actual costs of training provided to nursing facility staff in a certified  
38 nursing assistant training program, a direct care worker training program and an  
39 English as a second language training for a staff member who is a nonnative English  
40 speaker are fully reimbursed; and

**Sec. 9. 22 MRSA §1708, sub-§3, ¶H is enacted to read:**

H. Ensure that the actual costs of interpreter services for nursing facility staff and residents who require language assistance are fully reimbursed, including expenses for on-site interpreters, remote interpreting services and interpreter-related administrative costs.

**Sec. 10. 22 MRSA §3174-PPP** is enacted to read:

**§3174-PPP. Reimbursement for workforce training and interpreter services for private nonmedical institutions classified as residential care facilities**

The department shall reimburse under the MaineCare program for private nonmedical institutions the actual costs of staff training for a certified nursing assistant training program, a direct caregiver training program and English as a second language training for a staff member who is a nonnative English speaker and the actual costs of interpreter services for staff and residents who require language assistance, including expenses for on-site interpreters, remote interpreting services and interpreter-related administrative costs.

**Sec. 11. Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to offer certified nursing assistant examinations in several languages.** The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall collaborate with experts and relevant stakeholders to improve access to certification for persons who do not speak English by offering, at a minimum, the certified nursing assistant written examination under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 31 in French, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin and Filipino, ensuring the accuracy and cultural appropriateness of the translations. The department shall develop and make available written examinations under this section by January 1, 2026.

## SUMMARY

This bill:

1. Provides access to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for long-term care workers including nurses, certified nursing assistants, direct care workers and housekeeping and dietary staff;
2. Provides access to the state group health plan for long-term care workers including nurses, certified nursing assistants, direct care workers and housekeeping and dietary staff;
3. Provides nursing homes and long-term care facilities with direct MaineCare reimbursement for training for staff, including a certified nursing assistant training program, a direct care worker training program and English as a second language training for a staff member who is a nonnative English speaker;
4. Provides nursing homes and long-term care facilities with direct MaineCare reimbursement for actual costs of interpreter services for staff and residents who require language assistance, including expenses for on-site interpreters, remote interpreting services and interpreter-related administrative costs; and
5. Directs the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to provide translations of certified nursing assistant written examinations in French, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin and Filipino.