

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

## **One Hundred And Fifteenth Legislature**

OF THE

## **State Of Maine**

### **VOLUME V**

#### **FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

July 11, 1991 to July 18, 1991

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#### **FIRST CONFIRMATION SESSION**

October 2, 1991

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#### **SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

December 18, 1991 to January 7, 1992

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#### **SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

House of Representatives

January 8, 1992 to March 9, 1992

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH MAINE LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
6th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, January 21, 1992

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Reverend Keith Murray, Cherryfield First Baptist Church.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, January 16, 1992, was read and approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The following Communication:

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE  
83 WESTERN AVENUE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332

January 13, 1992

Hon. John L. Martin  
House of Representatives  
State House Station #2  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Report of the Advisory Committee on Medical Education on Postgraduate Health Professions Programs

Dear Speaker Martin:

During the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature, and at the suggestion of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, legislation was enacted directing the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) to review the Postgraduate Health Professions Programs administered by the Authority and to make suggested recommendations for improving these programs. The Finance Authority of Maine was directed to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by January 15, 1992. I have enclosed a copy of the final report for your review and consideration. The report and its recommendations were prepared by the Advisory Committee on Medical Education with FAME staff assistance. A list of the membership of the Medical Advisory Committee is included in the report.

Currently, there are two "financial aid" programs administered by FAME pertaining specifically to medical education. The Medical Contract Program is designed to provide students who are Maine residents with access to seats at allopathic medical schools. The program was developed because Maine does not have an allopathic medical school, and therefore Maine residents must go out of state to attend allopathic medical schools.

State supported medical schools in other states generally provide State residents with preferred access: residents are more likely to get accepted than out-of-state students. Through the Medical Contract Program, the State of Maine pays 7 different medical schools for up to 23 seats for Maine students per year, giving them a greater likelihood of acceptance.

A portion of the payment made by FAME under the medical Contract Program is repaid by the students, unless they return to Maine and practice in a designated underserved area, in which case the loan can be forgiven. This loan component is paid by FAME for each seat regardless of whether the student has financial need for the loan.

The second part of the program is the Osteopathic Loan Program. Students attending osteopathic schools of medicine, such as the University of New England College of Medicine in Biddeford, can receive loans of up to \$5,000 per year to help pay for their education. These students are also entitled to forgiveness if they practice in underserved areas in Maine.

In addition, a portion of the Contract Program repayments has been provided to support the Student Loan Repayment Program administered by the Department of Human Services. State funds are matched by federal moneys and used to help pay the education loans of doctors who practice in federally designated underserved areas in Maine.

These programs are designed to meet two main needs:

1. To provide incentives for physicians to practice primary care medicine (including pediatrics, obstetrics, internal medicine and family practice) and to locate in underserved areas. The incentives have included loans, loan forgiveness and loan subsidies. Maine currently suffers from a shortage of primary care providers, particularly in rural areas.

2. To improve the opportunities for Maine residents to obtain admission to allopathic and osteopathic medical schools with appropriate curriculums focusing on primary care. Maine is one of only two states without an allopathic medical school and ranks 50th nationally in the number of residents graduating from medical school each year.

The attached report contains recommendations to revise the programs to focus more directly on the two main goals. The recommendations are centered around three main components: access (capitation), need based loans and recruitment of primary care physicians.

The primary recommendations regarding access are to separate the loan component of the current Medical Contract Program from that portion which purchases access (capitation). Capitation would be limited to allopathic and osteopathic seats, since the Advisory Committee believes that there is no longer a need to purchase access to seats in dentistry, optometry and veterinary science. FAME would undertake a "Request for Proposals" in order to determine which medical schools can provide access most cost-effectively while at the same time serving other needs of the program, including providing a curriculum which encourages students to practice in primary care. By purchasing seats in blocks, Maine can exert leverage on the schools to offer a curriculum with a primary care focus.

The loan portion of the restructured program would become available to students based upon need, regardless of whether they were also benefiting from the capitation part of the program. Currently, financial need is not a consideration in the Medical Contract Program. Dental, veterinary and optometry students would be eligible for a portion of the loan funds. Loans would continue to be forgiven for those who practice in designated underserved areas or specialties.

Finally, more funds would be allocated to the Student Loan Repayment Program, leveraging increased federal dollars.

The draft report prepared by the Advisory Committee was reviewed by the Maine Education Assistance Board, which is an advisory board to the Finance Authority of Maine Board. The members of the Maine Education Assistance Board support the separation of the capitation, loan and recruitment components as a substantial improvement over the current Contract Program. This separation allows FAME to allocate the program funds directly to those areas where the funds can provide the greatest benefit, and to ensure that the capitation proposals do in fact provide Maine students with both improved access to medical education and a curriculum with an appropriate primary care emphasis.

The draft report has also been reviewed by the Special Select Commission on Access to Health Care, the Maine Medical Association, the Maine Osteopathic Association, the Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition, the Department of Human Services, and other interested entities, and their comments have been incorporated in a number of areas.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee and the Finance Authority of Maine, I want to thank you for your consideration of this report. We look forward to discussing its recommendations with you at your convenience. Please let me know if we can provide any further information to assist you in your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,  
S/Timothy P. Agnew  
Chief Executive Officer

Was read and with accompanying report ordered placed on file.

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES  
REQUIRING REFERENCE**

The following Bills were received and, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills, were referred to the following Committees, Ordered Printed and Sent up for Concurrence:

**Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government for the Fiscal Years ending June 30, 1992 and June 30, 1993 and to Change Certain Provisions of

the Laws" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1547) (L.D. 2185)  
(Presented by Representative FOSS of Yarmouth)

Ordered Printed.  
Sent up for Concurrence.

**Banking and Insurance**

Bill "An Act Authorizing the Risk Management Division to Provide Insurance to Certain Group Homes for Children and for Persons with Mental Retardation" (H.P. 1542) (L.D. 2175) (Presented by Representative LUTHER of Mexico) (Cosponsored by Representative ERWIN of Rumford, Senator MILLS of Oxford and Representative LORD of Waterboro) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.)

Bill "An Act to Authorize More Accessible and Affordable Medical Insurance for Small Employers" (H.P. 1546) (L.D. 2179) (Presented by Representative CARLETON of Wells) (Cosponsored by Representative ANDERSON of Woodland, Representative PENDEXTER of Scarborough and Senator BRAUN of Knox)

Ordered Printed.  
Sent up for Concurrence.

**Joint Select Committee on Corrections**

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Granting of Administrative Good Time to Those Inmates Who Are Aggressively Pursuing High School Equivalency Certificates or the Achievement of Functional Literacy" (H.P. 1544) (L.D. 2177) (Presented by Representative ANTHONY of South Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator GILL of Cumberland, Representative OLIVER of Portland and Representative HANDY of Lewiston) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.)

Ordered Printed.  
Sent up for Concurrence.

**Education**

Bill "An Act to Protect School Students from Potential Harm" (H.P. 1541) (L.D. 2174) (Presented by Representative REED of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland and Representative SMALL of Bath) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.)

Ordered Printed.  
Sent up for Concurrence.

**Housing and Economic Development**

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Requirements for Providing Accessible Housing" (H.P. 1540) (L.D. 2173)

(Presented by Representative BELL of Caribou) (Cosponsored by Representative GRAHAM of Houlton) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.)

Ordered Printed.  
Sent up for Concurrence.

Human Resources

Bill "An Act Concerning the Early Establishment of Counseling for Children in Foster Care" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1543) (L.D. 2176) (Presented by Representative DORE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Representative CASHMAN of Old Town and Representative RAND of Portland) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.)

Ordered Printed.  
Sent up for Concurrence.

Labor

Bill "An Act to Require Tentative Agreements to Be Considered a Part of the Arbitration Panel's Binding Recommendations" (H.P. 1545) (L.D. 2178) (Presented by Representative HANDY of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Representative JOSEPH of Waterville, Representative PARADIS of Frenchville and Representative RUHLIN of Brewer) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.)

Ordered Printed.  
Sent up for Concurrence.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative HICHBORN of Howland, the following Order:

ORDERED, that Representative John H. Richards of Hampden be excused January 14 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Rita B. Melendy of Rockland be excused January 21 for the duration of her illness.

Was read and passed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Unanimous Ought Not to Pass

Representative MANNING from the Committee on Human Resources on Bill "An Act to Establish Minimum Standards for Special Relief for Border Hospitals" (H.P. 1125) (L.D. 1650) reporting "Ought Not to Pass"

Representative MITCHELL from the Committee on

Marine Resources on Bill "An Act Concerning the Scallop Dragging Limit" (H.P. 494) (L.D. 688) reporting "Ought Not to Pass"

Representative JOSEPH from the Committee on State and Local Government on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Ensure State Recognition of the Rights of Victims of Crime (H.P. 992) (L.D. 1441) reporting "Ought Not to Pass"

Were placed in the Legislative Files without further action pursuant to Joint Rule 15 and sent up for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Business Legislation

Representative MICHAUD from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on Bill "An Act Concerning Railroad Personnel" (H.P. 1309) (L.D. 1891) reporting that it be referred to the Committee on Business Legislation.

Report was read and accepted and the bill referred to the Committee on Business Legislation and sent up for concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 49, the following item appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H.P. 977) (L.D. 1420) Bill "An Act to Establish a Special Housing Allowance for the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program" (EMERGENCY) Committee on Human Resources reporting "Ought to Pass" as amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-864)

There being no objections, the above item was ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar of Thursday, January 23, 1992 under the listing of Second Day.

(At Ease)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

(Off Record Remarks)

On motion of Representative Pines of Limestone, Adjourned at 4:36 p.m. until Thursday, January 23, 1992, at four o'clock in the afternoon.