

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1185

H. P. 924

House of Representatives, March 5, 1969

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Foster of Mechanic Falls.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-NINE

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AN ACT Relating to Conferring Degrees by Eleemosynary, Inc.

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it will be necessary for Eleemosynary, Inc. (Bliss College) to grant degrees in June, 1969; 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 enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**Sec. 1. Degrees.** Eleemosynary, Inc., a nonstock Maine corporation having its principal office in the City of Lewiston, Maine, by appropriate action of its trustees, may confer upon all who shall satisfactorily complete such course of study as said trustee may prescribe within the scope customarily established by junior colleges offering a 2-year curriculum, the Degree of Associate in Science.

**Sec. 2. Audit.** The institution shall file annually with the Secretary of State, an audit report prepared and signed by qualified independent public accounting firm for the preceding fiscal year.

**Sec. 3. Name Change.** Upon this Act becoming effective Eleemosynary, Inc. shall change its name to Bliss College.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

Bliss College was originally incorporated as Bliss Business College as a stock corporation under the General Laws on April 30, 1909. Its name was changed to Bliss College on June 10, 1958. In 1964, the officials of the College wished to change the corporation to a non-profit-non-stock corporation. All stock was negotiated back to the College, a Board of Trustees was elected, the purposes of the corporation were changed in such a fashion as to operate "non-profit schools and colleges . . ." and the corporation received a tax exempt status under the federal Internal Revenue Laws. From that point on the College operated de facto as a non-stock corporation. The records of the Secretary of State's office still carry Bliss College as a stock corporation since there are no provisions under Maine Law for transforming a stock corporation to a non-stock corporation. A non-stock corporation has been formed under a name of convenience (Eleemosynary, Inc.) and all of the assets and liabilities of Bliss College have been transferred to the non-stock corporation. The non-stock corporation will change its name to Bliss College upon degree granting powers be given by this Act. It therefore becomes necessary to grant the new non-stock corporation the same degree granting powers originally granted to Bliss College by Chapter 82 of the Private and Special Acts of 1967.