

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 773

S. P. 224

In Senate February 21, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Cummings of Penobscot.

(Cosponsors: Clifford of Androscoggin, Trotzky of Penobscot and Merrill of Cumberland).

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Authorize the University of Maine to Proceed with the Development of a School of Medicine as Part of the Teaching Program of the University System.

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

P&SL 1865, c. 532, § 9-A, as enacted by P&SL 1951, c. 97, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

Sec. 9-A. School of Medicine authorized; standards of scholarship; degrees. The board of trustees of the University of Maine is authorized to establish and implement such plans as they deem necessary for a School of Medicine as a component of the University of Maine. Said board of trustees shall be under no duty to perform any function under this provision unless and until, in its opinion, the said board has received or is assured of sufficient funds either by gift or grant from any source and by appropriation by the State of Maine to successfully operate said School of Medicine. Further, the minimum standards of operation of said school shall meet requirements necessary for accreditation.

Said board is authorized to confer the degree of "Doctor of Medicine" upon such students of the University of Maine School of Medicine as complete the course of study to the satisfaction of said board.

FISCAL NOTE

Biennium 1975-77 requirements. Funds for the 1975-77 biennium required by the passage of this Act are enclosed in the appropriation request of the

University of Maine and identified as Health Science Education. Requested for FY 75-76 is \$100,000 (Part I only) and \$200,000 for FY 76-77 (combined Part I and Part II). As noted in the University's appropriation request, federal funds in the amount of \$662,860 are anticipated for FY 1975-76, and \$958,370 for FY 1976-77 providing that a School of Medicine is authorized, thus establishing eligibility for the University of Maine to receive said funds. Receipt of the additional federal funds will allow reallocation of state funds to provide the 10% matching required for Veterans Administration funds and to provide funds for expense not allowable under the federal programs. If the School of Medicine is not authorized, and the University of Maine is therefore **not eligible** for the anticipated federal funds, the funds requested by the university for the biennium 1975-77 will be required to continue present obligations for Health Science Education coordination, residency programs, and for continuing education. The passage of this Act authorizing a School of Medicine will not increase the fiscal requirements of the university for the 1975-77 biennium.

Future requirements. Passage of this Act and establishment of a School of Medicine will increase future State of Maine requirements gradually over the next 8 years to an estimated total by 1982-83 of \$1.8 million. This will be the consequence of increasing fiscal requirements as the School of Medicine develops and decreasing support from the Veterans Administration as authorized in Public Law 92-541. The Veterans Administration program provides 90% of the funds required for faculty and administrative personnel for the first 3 years, thereafter decreasing 10% per year to 50% the 7th year and none the 8th year. The 8th year and thereafter, the Veterans Administration will pay only their personnel who are involved as faculty at the Togus V.A. Hospital. Although it is expected that Veterans Administration support will decrease as stated, indications are that the school will continue to receive \$500,000 annually from the National Institutes of Health. Based on 1974 dollars, thus not reflecting inflation, present estimates of future State of Maine support and accompanying federal support for the School of Medicine are as follows:

	State of Maine	Federal/Other
1977-78	\$ 400,000	\$1,300,350
1978-79	992,320	972,650
1979-80	1,231,730	1,047,100
1980-81	1,333,080	1,047,750
1981-82	1,369,330	1,011,500
1982-83	1,765,830	615,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the establishment of a School of Medicine at the University of Maine, which will result in an institution dedicated to the improvement of health care in Maine. This will be accomplished through the provision of medical education specifically oriented to Maine's needs, providing increased opportunity for Maine citizens to become

physicians, and improvement overall of medical, health and scientific educational opportunities for Maine citizens. Use will be made primarily of existing facilities. The majority of the faculty will be practicing physicians. The science capability of the University will be enhanced. Educational dollars spent by Maine citizens will augment Maine's own economy and will enhance the quality and availability of health care to Maine citizens. The cost of the program will be no greater than that of an expanded contractual program with an out-of-state medical school, but there will be many direct benefits to Maine not inherent in the contractual approach.