

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
107TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 760, L.D. 2310, Bill, "AN ACT to Provide Grants and Loans for Health Education."

Amend said Bill by striking out at the beginning of the first line after the enacting clause the following: "Sec. 1."

Further  
/amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out in the last sentence of the first paragraph of that part designated "§2271." the following: "through the New England Board of Higher Education"

Further amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out in the last sentence of that part designated "§2272." the following: "through the New England Board of Higher Education"

Further amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out in first sentence of that part designated "§2273." after the following words: "authorized to make" the following word: "any" and by inserting in place thereof the following: "reasonable"

Further amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out all of that part designated "§2274." and inserting in place thereof the following:

§2274. Designation and recommendation of the commissioner

The commissioner, after consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, shall designate those areas of the State which do not have adequate services of health professionals. In addition, the commissioner shall identify the specific health professions whose services are needed in each area. In making its designations, the commissioner shall consider the likely long-term, as well as the immediate, health professional needs of any area.

Annually, prior to February 15th, the commissioner shall recommend to the Budget Office and the Legislature an amount to be appropriated

to the Professional Health Fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter and for each contract program the portion of the total student price which shall be available as a grant and the portion which shall be available as a loan for each discipline.'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out all of those parts designated "§2276." "§2277." "§2278." and "§2279." and renumbering sections "§2280." "§2281." "§2282." "§2283." "§2284." and "§2285." to be "§2276." "§2277." "§2278." "§2279." "§2280." "§2281."

Further amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out in the first sentence of that part designated "§2282." the following words: "through the New England Board of Higher Education"

Further amend said Bill in section 1 by striking out in the first sentence of subsection 1 of that part designated "§2283." the following words: "3 years of internship" and inserting in place thereof the following: '5 years of internship'

Further amend said Bill in section 1 by inserting in the first sentence of that part designated "§2285." after the words: "provided under this chapter" the following: 'or those who enter these programs for the school year 1976-77'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of section 2.

#### Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is as follows. The present contract programs for professional health education which the State maintains provide access to professional schools for Maine residents. These programs do not, however, provide any motivation for students

to return to Maine to practice. This bill provides this missing motivation.

The bill establishes a Professional Health Fund which will be administered by the commissioner and will provide grants and loans to eligible Maine residents. If a recipient returns to Maine to practice in a shortage area, the bill provides forgiveness of a portion or all of the loan. If the recipient chooses to practice elsewhere or fails to practice in a shortage area long enough for the entire loan to be forgiven, the balance of the loan must be repaid to the Professional Health Fund. The State will, then, either receive the benefit of practicing professionals or additional money through repayment of the loan. It is anticipated that repayment of loans may, after several years, lower the amount which the State would need to appropriate for the contract programs.

Reported by the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule 11-A.

April 9, 1976.

(Filing No. S-550).