

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1621

H. P. 1349

House of Representatives, April 13, 1977

On motion of Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick, referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Post of Owls Head.

Cosponsor, Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

**AN ACT to Clarify the Authority of the Board of Registration in Medicine
to Conduct Programs of Medical Education.**

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA § 3269, sub-§ 10, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 504, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA § 3269-A is enacted to read:

§ 3269-A. Education

1. Programs of medical education. The board shall have the power to conduct and operate or contract with other agencies, persons, firms or associations for the conduct and operation of programs of medical education and to disburse funds accumulated through the receipt of licensure fees for this purpose. These programs of medical education shall be subject to the following provisions.

A. "Programs of medical education" shall mean any process of training and developing knowledge or skill in any area of medicine and shall not be construed to mean any type of research, evaluation or monitoring.

B. No funds shall be disbursed for out-of-state travel, meals or lodging for any person being educated under this program.

C. No less than \$10,000 of these funds shall be disbursed each fiscal year for programs, the purpose of which shall be to improve the skills of physi-

cians in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions caused by and related to developmental disabilities.

2. Financial assistance. The board shall have the power to conduct and operate or contract with other agencies or nonprofit organizations for the conduct and operation of a program of financial assistance to medical students indicating an intent to engage in family practice in rural Maine. This program of financial assistance shall be subject to the following provisions.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, the words "rural Maine" shall mean any municipality which has less than 10,000 inhabitants or any unorganized territory.

B. Under this program, the board may provide medical students with interest-free grants or interest-bearing loans in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per student per year, on the terms and conditions designated under this subsection.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any medical student who is a resident of the State, who expects to receive assistance pursuant to this subsection and who commences his professional medical education on or after the 1978-79 academic year shall, prior to receiving such assistance, enter into an agreement with the board. Under this agreement the student shall agree to the following conditions.

(1) Upon the conclusion of his professional medical education, including internship, residency and obligated military service, he will return to rural Maine to practice his profession upon being duly licensed by the State.

(2) In the event he fails to practice his profession in rural Maine for a period of 4 years, he shall become obligated to pay to the board an amount of money equal to the amount expended by the board for him as a student. This amount shall be payable in 20 annual, equal installments without interest. These installment payments shall commence one year following the commencement of out-of-state practice by the student, provided that an amount equal to $\frac{1}{4}$ of that indebtedness as determined in this section shall be forgiven for each year which the student practices his profession in rural Maine.

D. The board shall prepare contractual agreements between the board and each student, which agreements shall set forth the terms and conditions in paragraph B. Each student falling within the purview of paragraph B shall be required to execute such an agreement prior to commencing his professional medical education. This agreement shall be in a form approved by the Attorney General.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill elaborates on, clarifies and adds to the powers of the Board of Registration in Medicine to conduct programs of medical education and finan-

cial assistance for medical students. The most significant provisions in the bill:

1. Define "program of medical education" and exclude any type of research, evaluation or monitoring from this definition (subsection 1, paragraph A);
2. Require that \$10,000 be used for programs of medical education in the area of developmental disabilities (subsection 1, paragraph C); and
3. Require that medical students who receive financial assistance from the board be required to work in rural Maine for 4 years or to pay back the amount of assistance received (subsection 2).