

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1414

S. P. 473

In Senate, March 27, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Pierce of Kennebec.

Cosponsors: Senators Perkins of Hancock, Conley of Cumberland and Katz of Kennebec.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Concerning Health Services in Rural and Underserved Areas.

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

Sec. 1. Findings and declaration of purpose. The Legislature finds that access to health care in rural and underserved areas of the State is inadequate in part because of the lack of qualified health manpower to care for the needs of our rural population.

The Legislature further finds that a program of assistance to communities and to health providers in rural and underserved areas is essential in order to recruit and retain qualified health professionals to serve our rural population.

Sec. 2. Demonstration program. The Department of Human Services shall establish a demonstration grant for the purpose of providing management and technical assistance to communities and health providers in rural and underserved areas. This assistance will be directed towards the recruitment and retention of health providers in Maine's rural and underserved areas.

Recruitment assistance will be directed towards aiding communities in attracting qualified health providers to their areas. Retention activities will consist of providing communities or health providers, technical and

administrative assistance in practice management, administration, team training, patient education, and back-up support for leave and educational time.

This demonstration program shall apply to community or community clusters more than 10 miles from a community hospital which satisfy the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare criteria as a critical health manpower shortage area or a medically underserved area or would satisfy such criteria if a single physician left the area.

This demonstration program may be used to complement the services provided under the National Health Service Corp.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1979-80
HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF	
Personal Services	0
All Other	\$100,000
Total	<u>\$100,000</u>

To avoid duplication of services and personnel, the Department of Human Services shall contract with a qualified nonprofit health care development organization to carry out this demonstration program and shall consult with the Maine Ambulatory Care Coalition prior to awarding this contract.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to establish a program of assistance to communities and health providers in rural and underserved areas and to complement the assistance now provided through the National Health Service Corporation. Assistance will be directed toward the retention and recruitment of qualified health professionals of these areas since there is presently an inadequate number of health providers in these areas.