

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2304

(Filing No. S-468 )

STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
113TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 892, L.D. 2304,  
Bill, "AN ACT to Respond to Health Care Occupation  
Shortages in Maine through the Health Occupations  
Training Project."

Amend the bill by striking out everything after  
the enacting clause and inserting in its place the  
following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §396-D, sub-§9, ¶F, as amended  
by PL 1987, c. 542, Pt. H, §2, is repealed and the  
following enacted in its place:

F. In determining payment-year financial  
requirements, the commission shall include an  
adjustment to reflect the actual costs of the  
hospital's participation in the Health Occupations  
Training Project, Title 26, chapter 31. These  
costs shall be limited to actual payments made to  
lenders under the program. The commission shall  
make an adjustment under this paragraph only to  
the extent the costs found to be reasonable are  
not otherwise included in financial requirements.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1812-C, sub-§7 is enacted to  
read:

7. Health Occupations Training Project. The  
department shall adopt rules governing the  
reimbursement of the costs associated with the

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1 participation of nursing homes in the Health  
2 Occupations Training Project. The reimbursable costs  
3 shall include only actual payments to lenders made  
4 under the project.

5 Sec. 3. 26 MRSA c. 31 is enacted to read:

6 CHAPTER 31

7 HEALTH OCCUPATIONS TRAINING PROJECT

8 §2151. Scope

9 This chapter establishes the Health Occupations  
10 Training Project which shall provide assistance to the  
11 State's health care facilities facing serious  
12 shortages of workers in certain health care  
13 occupations.

14 §2152. Administration

15 This chapter shall be jointly administered by the  
16 Department of Labor and the Department of Human  
17 Services. The Commissioner of Labor and the  
18 Commissioner of Human Services may promulgate rules in  
19 accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure  
20 Act, Title 5, chapter 375, to implement the Health  
21 Occupations Training Project.

22 §2153. Funding

23 Funding for this project may come from existing  
24 state funds, an appropriation of new state funds and  
25 from funds provided by the participating institutions.

26 §2154. Project goals

27 The Health Occupations Training Project is a  
28 training strategy consisting of 3 parts that provide  
29 for:

30 1. Placement. An increased supply of certified  
31 nurses aides, home health care aides and other similar  
32 occupations, including licensed practical nurses,  
33 through training and placement in jobs with  
34 competitive wages and benefits;

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2. Workers. An increased supply of workers for hospital technical jobs through training of participants in the state job training system. For purposes of this chapter, the state job training system includes job training programs such as the Job Training Partnership Act and the Welfare, Employment, Education and Training Program and programs administered by participating hospitals; and

3. Registered nurses. An increased supply of registered nurses through the provision of a government student loan payback plan for new registered nurses who work in the State.

§2155. Training for entry-level health occupations

Training for certified nurses aides, home health care aides and other similar occupations, including licensed practical nurses, shall be as follows.

1. Training delivery. Training delivery is as follows.

A. Job training services, which will be provided under the state job training system, shall be coordinated by the Department of Labor and the Department of Human Services job training programs. These services may include, but are not limited to, outreach, recruitment, orientation, selection, preoccupational training, supportive services and needs-based stipends.

B. Skill training shall be provided by quality training providers such as the State's vocational-technical institutes.

2. Certification. Participants who complete training under this section shall receive a statewide certificate granted by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services with a curriculum approved pursuant to Title 32, section 2102, subsection 8.

3. Placement. The Department of Labor shall give priority in placement to employers who provide competitive wages, health care benefits and day care assistance.

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1 §2156. Training for technical hospital-based  
2 occupations

3 Training for certain technical, hospital-based  
4 occupations, including x-ray technicians, medical and  
5 clinical technologists and surgical technicians shall  
6 be as follows.

7 1. Training delivery. Training delivery is as  
8 follows.

9 A. Job training services, which will be provided  
10 under the state job training system, shall be  
11 coordinated by the Department of Labor and the  
12 Department of Human Services job training  
13 programs. These services may include, but are not  
14 limited to, outreach, recruitment, orientation,  
15 selection, preoccupational training, supportive  
16 services and needs-based stipends.

17 B. Skill training shall be provided by the  
18 participating hospitals which shall deliver the  
19 training in-house or through subcontracts to other  
20 approved training entities.

21 C. Participating hospitals shall bear those  
22 occupational training costs not covered by the  
23 Department of Labor.

24 §2157. Payback loans for registered nurses

25 1. Plan established. A government student loan  
26 payback plan for registered nurses, up to the amount  
27 of funds appropriated by the Legislature for this  
28 purpose, is established. Any nursing home, hospital  
29 or other health care provider may pay for a registered  
30 nurse's government student loan used for nurses'  
31 training and be reimbursed for amounts paid out for  
32 the loans according to the methods set forth in  
33 subsection 2. Reimbursement shall not exceed amounts  
34 equal to the number of monthly payments of principal  
35 plus interest, based on a 10-year term of the loan,  
36 which reflects the actual number of months of  
37 employment at the institution.

38 2. Methods of repayment. Repayment of loans  
39 shall be as follows.

NOT

1 A. The Department of Human Services, by rule  
2 promulgated in accordance with the Maine  
3 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter  
4 375, shall make the repayment of government  
5 student loans for registered nurses a reimbursable  
6 cost up to the limits allowed by federal  
7 regulation for other health care providers  
8 regulated by the department.

16 C. Other health care providers may participate in  
17 this plan on a voluntary basis by paying back the  
18 government student loans as they accrue on behalf  
19 of the participating registered nurses while  
20 employed at the facilities. These health care  
21 providers shall be reimbursed by the Department of  
22 Human Services. The Department of Human Services  
23 shall adopt rules to provide for this  
24 reimbursement.

26       This chapter is repealed 3 years after the  
27       effective date of this section.

31 1988-89

## 33 Health Occupations Training

35 Transfers funds to  
36 assist in the training

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1	for	technical	
2	hospital-based		
3	occupations.		
4	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR		
5	TOTAL		<u>\$100,000</u>
6	<u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>		
7	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
8	Medical Care - Payments		
9	to Providers		
10	All Other		\$ 59,796
11	Provides state match		
12	for Medicaid funding		
13	associated with the		
14	pass-through of the		
15	nursing loan repayment		
16	program.		
17	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES		
18	TOTAL		<u>\$ 59,796</u>
19			
20	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		<u>\$159,796</u>
21	<b>Sec. 5. Allocation.</b>	The following funds are	
22	allocated from the Federal Expenditure Fund to carry		
23	out the purposes of this Act.		
24			<u>1988-89</u>
25	<u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u>		
26	<u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>		
27	Medical Care - Payments to		
28	Providers		
29	All Other		\$120,864
30	Provides funds for the		
31	Federal Medicaid		
32	portion due to the		
33	pass-through of the		
34	nursing loan repayment		
35	program.		

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1       Sec. 6.   Sunset.   Sections 1 and 2 of this Act  
2   are repealed 3 years after the effective date of this  
3   Act.

## 4 FISCAL NOTE

5       The \$100,000 appropriated to the Department of  
6 Labor also appears in the proposed supplemental budget  
7 bill, Legislative Document 2156, under the Department  
8 of Human Services, Health Occupational Training.

9 In addition to the appropriations and allocation  
10 outlined, the estimated cost to 3rd party and private  
11 payors totals \$409,730 in fiscal year 1989. Estimated  
12 cost of the program for the remaining 2 years is as  
13 follows:

14		<u>1989-90</u>	<u>1990-91</u>
15	State Medicaid Funds	\$ 67,606	\$ 75,406
16	Federal Medicaid Funds	136,615	152,377
17	Other Payors	463,169	516,607
18	TOTAL	\$667,390	\$744,390

19 Future cost estimates assume an increase of 90 new  
20 nurses participating in the program each year.

21 It should also be noted that the bill requires  
22 hospitals participating in the training program to  
23 "bear those occupational training costs not covered by  
24 the Department of Labor." These amounts would also be  
25 added to the hospital's financial requirements by the  
26 Maine Health Care Finance Commission and would further  
27 increase hospital costs to all payors.'

28 STATEMENT OF FACT

29 This amendment makes several technical changes.  
30 In addition, the program will be coordinated by the  
31 Department of Labor and the Department of Human  
32 Services instead of by the Private Industry Council.  
33 Certification for participants will be handled by the  
34 Department of Educational and Cultural Services rather  
35 than the institution giving the training. As in the  
36 original bill, hospitals are allowed to repay loans by



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1 passing through these costs by adjustments by the  
2 Maine Health Care Finance Commission.

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Reported by Majority for the Committee on Human Resources.  
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