

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2304

(Filing No. S-469)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
113TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

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

14 'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1812-C, sub-§7 is enacted to
15 read:

16 7. Health Occupations Training Project. The
17 department shall adopt rules governing the
18 reimbursement of the costs associated with the
19 participation of nursing homes in the Health
20 Occupations Training Project. The reimbursable costs
21 shall include only actual payments to lenders made
22 under the project.

23 Sec. 2. 26 MRSA c. 31 is enacted to read:

24 CHAPTER 31

25 HEALTH OCCUPATIONS TRAINING PROJECT

26 §2151. Scope

27 This chapter establishes the Health Occupations
28 Training Project which shall provide assistance to the

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1 State's health care facilities facing serious
2 shortages of workers in certain health care
3 occupations.

4 §2152. Administration

5 This chapter shall be jointly administered by the
6 Department of Labor and the Department of Human
7 Services. The Commissioner of Labor and the
8 Commissioner of Human Services may promulgate rules in
9 accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure
10 Act, Title 5, chapter 375, to implement the Health
11 Occupations Training Project.

12 §2153. Funding

13 Funding for this project may come from existing
14 state funds, an appropriation of new state funds and
15 from funds provided by the participating institutions.

16 §2154. Project goals

17 The Health Occupations Training Project is a
18 training strategy consisting of 3 parts that provide
19 for:

20 1. Placement. An increased supply of certified
21 nurses aides, home health care aides and other similar
22 occupations, including licensed practical nurses,
23 through training and placement in jobs with
24 competitive wages and benefits;

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

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

37 §2155. Training for entry-level health occupations

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

4 1. Training delivery. Training delivery is as
5 follows.

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

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

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

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

26 §2156. Training for technical hospital-based
27 occupations

28 Training for certain technical, hospital-based
29 occupations, including x-ray technicians, medical and
30 clinical technologists and surgical technicians shall
31 be as follows.

32 1. Training delivery. Training delivery is as
33 follows.

34 A. Job training services, which will be provided
35 under the state job training system, shall be
36 coordinated by the Department of Labor and the
37 Department of Human Services job training

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1 programs. These services may include, but are not
2 limited to, outreach, recruitment, orientation,
3 selection, preoccupational training, supportive
4 services and needs-based stipends.

5 B. Skill training shall be provided by the
6 participating hospitals which shall deliver the
7 training in-house or through subcontracts to other
8 approved training entities.

9 C. Participating hospitals shall bear those
10 occupational training costs not covered by the
11 Department of Labor.

12 §2157. Payback loans for registered nurses

13 1. Plan established. A government student loan
14 payback plan for registered nurses, up to the amount
15 of funds appropriated by the Legislature for this
16 purpose, is established. Any nursing home, hospital
17 or other health care provider may pay for a registered
18 nurse's government student loan used for nurses'
19 training and be reimbursed for amounts paid out for
20 the loans according to the methods set forth in
21 subsection 2. Reimbursement shall not exceed amounts
22 equal to the number of monthly payments of principal
23 plus interest, based on a 10-year term of the loan,
24 which reflects the actual number of months of
25 employment at the institution.

26 2. Methods of repayment. Repayment of loans
27 shall be as follows.

28 A. The Department of Human Services, by rule
29 promulgated in accordance with the Maine
30 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter
31 375, shall make the repayment of government
32 student loans for registered nurses a reimbursable
33 cost up to the limits allowed by federal
34 regulation for other health care providers
35 regulated by the department.

36 B. Hospitals may participate in this plan on a
37 voluntary basis by paying back the government
38 student loans as they accrue on behalf of the
39 participating registered nurses while employed at
40 the facilities. Hospitals shall be reimbursed by

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1 Provides funds to
2 assist in the training
3 for technical
4 hospital-based
5 occupations.

6 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
7 TOTAL

\$100,000

8
9 TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS

\$690,390

10 Sec. 4. Sunset. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act
11 are repealed 3 years after the effective date of this
12 Act.

13 FISCAL NOTE

14 The \$100,000 appropriated to the Department of
15 Labor also appears in the proposed supplemental
16 budget, Legislative Document 2156, under the
17 Department of Human Services, Health Occupations
18 Training.

19 General Fund appropriations to the Department of
20 Human Services to reimburse health care providers for
21 payments under the nursing loan repayment program are
22 expected to increase according to the following
23 schedule:

24	FISCAL YEAR	GENERAL FUND
25	ENDING JUNE 30	APPROPRIATIONS
26	1989	\$590,390
27	1990	\$667,390
28	1991	\$744,390'

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 This amendment makes several technical changes.
31 In addition, the program will be coordinated by the
32 Department of Labor and the Department of Human
33 Services instead of by the Private Industry Council.
34 Certification for participants will be handled by the
35 Department of Educational and Cultural Services rather

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1 than the institution giving the training. The major
2 change from the original bill is that hospitals will
3 be reimbursed through the General Fund rather than
4 through the pass-through mechanism of the Maine Health
5 Care Finance Commission.

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Reported by the Minority for the Committee on Human
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