

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2304

S.P. 892

In Senate, February 19, 1988

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GILL of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative MANNING of Portland, Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin, Representative PINES of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

1 AN ACT to Respond to Health Care
2 Occupation Shortages in Maine through the
3 Health Occupations Training Project.
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §396-D, sub-§9, ¶F, as amended

1 by PL 1987, c. 542, Pt. H, §2, is repealed and the
2 following enacted in its place:

3 F. In determining payment-year financial
4 requirements, the commission shall include an
5 adjustment to reflect the actual costs of the
6 hospital's participation in the Health Occupations
7 Training Project, Title 26, section 2151. These
8 costs shall be limited to actual payments made to
9 lenders under the program. The commission shall
10 make an adjustment under this paragraph only to
11 the extent the costs found to be reasonable are
12 not otherwise included in financial requirements.

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

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

21 Sec. 3. 26 MRSA c. 29 is enacted to read:

22 CHAPTER 29

23 HEALTH OCCUPATIONS TRAINING PROJECT

24 §2151. Scope

25 This chapter establishes the Health Occupations
26 Training Project which shall provide assistance to the
27 State's health care facilities facing serious
28 shortages of workers in certain health care
29 occupations.

30 §2152. Administration

31 This chapter shall be jointly administered by the
32 Department of Labor and the Department of Human
33 Services. The Commissioner of Labor and the
34 Commissioner of Human Services may promulgate rules in
35 accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure

1 Act, Title 5, chapter 375, to implement the Health
2 Occupations Training Project.

3 §2153. Funding

4 Funding for this project may come from existing
5 state funds, an appropriation of new state funds and
6 from funds provided by the participating institutions.

7 §2154. Project goals

8 The Health Occupations Training Project is a
9 training strategy consisting of 3 parts that provide
10 for:

11 1. Placement. An increased supply of certified
12 nurses aides, home health care aides and other similar
13 occupations, including licensed practical nurses,
14 through training and placement in jobs with
15 competitive wages and benefits;

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

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

28 §2155. Training for entry-level health occupations

29 Training for certified nurses aides and home
30 health care aides shall be as follows.

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

33 A. Job training services, which will be provided
34 under the state job training system, shall be

1 coordinated by the Private Industry Council job
2 training programs. These services may include,
3 but are not limited to, outreach, recruitment,
4 orientation, selection, preoccupational training,
5 supportive services and needs-based stipends.

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

9 2. Placement of certified workers. Participants
10 who complete training under this section shall receive
11 a statewide certificate granted by an institution with
12 a curriculum approved pursuant to Title 32, section
13 2102, subsection 8. In placing participants, emphasis
14 shall be given to employers who provide competitive
15 wages, health care benefits and day care assistance.

16 §2156. Training for technical hospital-based
17 occupations

18 Training for certain technical, hospital-based
19 occupations, including x-ray technicians, medical and
20 clinical technologists and surgical technicians shall
21 be as follows.

22 1. Training delivery. Training delivery is as
23 follows.

24 A. Job training services, which will be provided
25 under the state job training system, shall be
26 coordinated by the Private Industry Council job
27 training programs. These services may include,
28 but are not limited to, outreach, recruitment,
29 orientation, selection, preoccupational training,
30 supportive services and needs-based stipends.

31 B. Skill training shall be provided by the
32 participating hospitals which shall deliver the
33 training in-house or through subcontracts to other
34 approved training entities.

35 C. Participating hospitals shall bear those
36 occupational training costs not covered by the
37 Department of Labor.

1 §2157. Payback loans for registered nurses

2 1. Plan established. A government student loan
3 payback plan for registered nurses licensed after the
4 effective date of this section is established.

5 2. Hospitals. This plan shall allow hospitals,
6 pursuant to Title 22, section 396-D, to repay the
7 educational loans of registered nurses employed at
8 that hospital.

9 3. Other health care facilities. The Department
10 of Human Services, by rule promulgated in accordance
11 with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5,
12 chapter 375, may make the repayment of government
13 student loans for registered nurses a reimbursable
14 cost for other health care facilities regulated by the
15 department.

16 4. Methods for repayment. Hospitals and other
17 health care facilities may participate in this plan on
18 a voluntary basis by paying back the government
19 student loans as they accrue on behalf of the
20 participating registered nurses while employed at the
21 facilities and by obtaining reimbursement through the
22 Maine Health Care Finance Commission or other means as
23 provided by rule. These repayments shall be made
24 directly to the lender.

25 §2158. Repeal

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

28 Sec. 4. Sunset. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act
29 are repealed 3 years after the effective date of this
30 Act.

31 FISCAL NOTE

32 Enactment of this bill will necessitate a General
33 Fund appropriation of \$100,000. This amount has been
34 included in the Governor's supplemental appropriation
35 requests for the fiscal 1988-89 biennium.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to immediately address
3 severe shortages affecting certain occupations in
4 health care delivery. The proposal is a 3-part
5 short-term response to occupational shortages.

6 First, existing state and federal job training
7 funds will be directed to a one-year project to train
8 300 entry-level health care workers, which include
9 certified nurses aides, home health care aides and
10 licensed practical nurses.

11 Second, the Governor will direct existing state
12 and federal job training funds, plus a \$100,000
13 appropriation from the General Fund, to a one-year
14 project to train 150 technical hospital-based
15 occupations.

16 The 3rd part of this bill seeks to increase the
17 supply of registered nurses, through the provision of
18 an individual loan payback plan for registered nurses
19 who work in health care facilities in the State. This
20 would be accomplished by making it an allowable cost,
21 under the Maine Health Care Finance Commission and
22 other means as provided by regulation, for health care
23 facilities to repay the government student loans of
24 registered nurses while they are employed in that
25 facility.

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