

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Emergency)
(After Deadline)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2438

S.P. 927

In Senate, March 3, 1988

Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CLARK of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative SHELTRA of Biddeford, Senator DUTREMBLE of York, Representative MURPHY of Kennebunk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide Maine Residents Access to
Graduate Social Work Education in Southern
Maine.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the University of New England, responding to the needs of the many Maine residents in the

1 University of Connecticut Northern New England School
2 of Social Work, agreed to assume sponsorship of this
3 program; and

4 Whereas, the University of New England has
5 invested over \$250,000, established an advisory
6 committee of citizens and professional social workers,
7 secured legislative authorization to award the Master
8 of Social Work degree, contracted with nationally
9 recognized consultants, submitted an application for
10 candidacy for accreditation, conducted a national
11 search for a highly qualified director, hired faculty
12 and marketed the program to prospective students; and

13 Whereas, the University of New England is now
14 faced with a duplicate program being proposed at the
15 University of Southern Maine and offered to students
16 at tax subsidized rates far below what the University
17 of New England can offer; and

18 Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A,
19 section 10902, subsections 5 and 11, direct the
20 University of Maine to encourage the growth and
21 development of private institutions within the State
22 and to request and expect cooperative undertakings; and

23 Whereas, a cooperative effort to avoid duplicate
24 programs through a system of grants-in-aid to students
25 by the State and guaranteed access by the University
26 of New England provides the most efficient way to
27 deliver this vital education program to southern Maine
28 residents; and

29 Whereas, the University of New England, in order
30 to continue graduate social work education, must be
31 assured that its program is fiscally viable in face of
32 subsidized competition; and

33 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these
34 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the
35 Constitution of Maine and require the following
36 legislation as immediately necessary for the
37 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;
38 now, therefore,

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

3 P&SL 1865, c. 532, §19 is enacted to read:

4 Sec. 19. Graduate social work education.

5 1. Intent. It is the intent of the Legislature
6 to assure access to graduate social work education at
7 a reasonable cost for the State's residents living and
8 working in southern Maine and that graduate social
9 work education be provided at the University of New
10 England, under contract with the University of Maine
11 System, for qualified Maine residents assisted by
12 grants-in-aid.

13 2. Responsibility for program. It is the intent
14 of the Legislature, consistent with the purposes of
15 this chapter, that the Trustees of the University of
16 Maine shall administer a program and develop a plan
17 which assures Maine residents who are enrolled in the
18 University of New England Master of Social Work
19 program, and who qualify for the per capita grants,
20 the ability to pay: University of Maine resident
21 graduate tuition rates.

22 3. Agreement. A contract arrangement between the
23 University of Maine System and the University of New
24 England shall be established that provides a per
25 capita grant for each qualifying Maine resident
26 enrolled for at least half-time study in the
27 University of New England School of Social Work. The
28 per capita grant shall be used to supplement the
29 tuition paid by each Maine student, which shall be
30 stipulated in the contract to be equal to the
31 University of Maine System's resident graduate tuition
32 rate.

33 The per capita grant shall be equal to the difference
34 between the current University of Maine System's
35 graduate resident tuition rate and the University of
36 Maine System's graduate nonresident tuition rate per
37 student per credit or the University of New England
38 graduate tuition rate, whichever is less.

39 The number of grants awarded each year may be limited

1 by the funds available for graduate social work
2 education in the university budget, but shall not
3 exceed the cost of developing a duplicate program.
4 Criteria for qualifying for the per capita grant shall
5 be established by the University of Maine System.

6 4. Appropriations. Funds for the per capita
7 grants shall come from money budgeted for graduate
8 social work education at the University of Southern
9 Maine.

10 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency
11 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when
12 approved.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

14 Duplication of professional programs which serve a
15 limited applicant pool is far too expensive for the
16 State's limited resources and in this case bears the
17 added consequence of undercutting an independent
18 institution's public service efforts. The Trustees of
19 the University of Maine are concerned that the needs
20 of the citizens of Maine be served. The Trustees of
21 the University of New England also are concerned with
22 long-term fiscal viability of Master of Social Work
23 education and with potential loss of time, funds and
24 personnel.

25 This bill addresses both issues through a
26 cooperative mechanism already in use for other
27 specialized education needs. A qualifying Maine
28 resident who enrolls in the University of New England
29 School of Social Work program for at least half-time
30 study will pay the University of Maine System resident
31 graduate tuition. The University of New England will
32 receive a subsidy equal to the difference between the
33 University of Maine System resident and nonresident
34 tuition rates or the difference between the University
35 of Maine resident rates and the University of New
36 England rates, whichever is less.

37 This program assures continuance of a significant
38 program for an in-state independent institution which
39 meets the need for affordable Master of Social Work

1 access, costs the University of Maine System less per
2 Maine student, establishes a cooperative public and
3 independent link, avoids program duplication and
4 reduces the University of Maine System risk should
5 demand drop.

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