

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

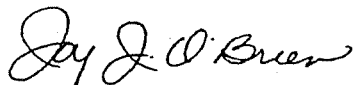
Legislative Document

No. 1470

S.P. 535

In Senate, May 4, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GILL of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative DELLERT of Gardiner, Representative FOSS of Yarmouth and Representative BOUTILIER of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Expand the Health Occupations Training Project.



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

3 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §§2151 and 2153-2155**, as enacted by PL 1987,
5 c. 777, §3, are amended to read:

7 **§2151. Scope**

9 This chapter establishes the Health Occupations Training
11 Project which shall provide assistance to the State's health care
13 facilities facing serious shortages of workers in certain health
15 care occupations by combining the resources of existing federal
17 and state job training programs.

19 **§2153. Funding**

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

27 **§2154. Project goals**

29 The Health Occupations Training Project is a training
31 strategy consisting to increase the supply of health care
33 workers. The project consists of 3 parts that provide for:

35 **1. Health care workers.** An increased supply of certified
37 nurses aides, home health care aides ~~and--other--similar~~
39 occupations, including licensed practical nurses, registered
41 nurses and other support staff, through training and placement in
43 jobs with competitive wages and benefits;

45 **2. Allied health care workers.** An increased supply of
47 allied health care workers ~~for--hospital--technical--jobs--~~ through
49 training of participants in the state job training system. For
51 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; the
Maine Training Initiative; the Additional Support for People in
Retraining and Education 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~~ to recruit and retain registered nurses who work for
a health care facility in the State.

§2155. Training for health care occupations

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

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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.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §§2156 and 2157, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 777, §3, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

§2156. Training for allied health occupations

Training delivery for allied health occupations, including x-ray technicians, medical and clinical technologists and surgical technicians, shall be as follows.

1. Job training services. 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.

2. Skill training. Skill training shall be provided by the Maine Vocational-Technical Institute System to participants who are either entering the field or are employed health care workers who want to upgrade their skills. Participants must be referred by the state job training system.

3. Local job training providers. The state job training system's local providers shall develop a proposal with a vocational-technical institute, whereby the job training office shall provide recruitment, testing and assessment, counseling, support services and placement, and the vocational-technical

1 institute shall provide the vocational training. These proposals
3 shall be submitted to the Department of Labor for funding
5 consideration. The local job training provider and the
7 vocational-technical institute shall be encouraged to contribute
9 local resources to help defray the cost of their proposal.

11 4. Marketing plan. The Commissioner of Human Services and
13 the Commissioner of Labor, with input from health care providers,
15 shall develop a statewide marketing plan to attract new people
17 into the health care field.

19 §2157. Payback loans for registered nurses

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

43 2. Methods of repayment. Repayment of loans shall be as
45 follows.

47 A. The Department of Human Services, by rule promulgated in
49 accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act,
51 Title 5, chapter 375, shall make the repayment of government
student loans for registered nurses a reimbursable cost,
based upon Medicaid utilization of services provided by
health care facilities.

(1) Hospitals may participate in this plan on a
voluntary basis by paying back the government student
loans as they accrue on behalf of the participating
registered nurses while employed at the facilities.
Adjustments shall be made to the hospital's financial
requirements pursuant to Title 22, section 396-D.

(2) Nursing homes, rural health clinics and home
health agencies may participate in this plan on a
voluntary basis by paying back the government student
loans as they accrue on behalf of the participating
registered nurses while employed at the facilities.
These health care providers shall be reimbursed by the
Department of Human Services pursuant to rules
promulgated for this purpose.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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5 Critical shortages of skilled workers in the State's health
7 care industry have resulted in the closing of beds in hospitals
9 and other health care facilities, and services being denied to
11 Maine people in sites throughout the State, particularly in
13 southern Maine. With fewer workers entering the workforce and an
15 increasing number of older people requiring health services, the
17 demands on this industry are expected to grow more profound in
19 the years ahead.

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23 The Health Occupations Training, or HOT, Project of 1987 was
25 an effort by the State to address the imminent labor needs of
27 this industry. In order to meet its long-term needs, however, it
29 has become clear that a broadened, more aggressive approach is
31 now necessary. HOT II would increase funding for health
33 occupations training, build the capacity of the Maine
35 Vocational-Technical Institute System to provide more long-term
37 training for health care professionals and require an aggressive
39 marketing strategy to recruit potential workers into the health
41 care field.

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45 In addition, this language allows funding to hospitals, home
47 health agencies, rural health clinics and nursing homes, which
49 participate in the loan repayment program for registered nurses,
51 based on Medicaid utilization of services provided by health care
53 facilities.

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57 Funding to implement this program is included in the
59 Governor's Supplemental Appropriations Act.

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