

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

Legislative Document

No. 2408

H.P. 1722

House of Representatives, March 10, 1992

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs.
Cosponsored by Senator ESTES of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Advisory Committee
on Medical Education.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)



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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§7**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 786, §5, is amended to read:

6 **7.** Advisory Com- Not Autho- 20-A MRSA
Education mittee on Medi- rized §11807
8 cal Education §12106

10 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1017**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 698, §10, is repealed.

12 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §11614, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 14 559, §10, is amended to read:

16 **1. Priority for awards of scholarships.** ~~Full-time-students~~
18 Students with the lowest expected family contributions shall must
be given priority over all other eligible students for the awards
20 of scholarships.

22 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §11804-A**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 612, §5, is further amended to read:

24 **§11804-A. Agreement for contract students after July 1, 1981 and**
26 **prior to January 1, 1993**

28 **1. Agreement.** Any state contract student commencing
professional education on or after July 1, 1981, and prior to
30 January 1, 1993 shall, as a condition precedent to the
commencement of the education, enter into an agreement with the
32 State under which the student shall agree:

34 A. To pay tuition to the institution; and

36 B. Upon the conclusion of professional education, including
internship, residency, fellowship, obligated public health
38 service and obligated national service, to pay the State an
amount of money equal to the difference between the
40 nonresident tuition at the institution being attended by the
state contract student and the tuition charged the state
42 contract student.

44 (1) This amount is payable at 9% simple annual interest
over a period not to exceed 10 years; however, students
46 may extend the repayment period by one to 10 years with
the approval of the chief executive officer for a total
48 repayment period not to exceed 20 years.

50 (2) These installment payments shall commence upon
conclusion of the state contract student's professional

2 education under rules promulgated adopted by the
3 authority.

4 After ~~the effective date of this paragraph~~ March 16, 1990, the
5 agreement provided for in this subsection must be entered into by
6 the student and the authority.

8 **2. Forgiveness.** Any student who, upon the conclusion of
9 the student's professional education, including, if applicable,
10 internship, residency, fellowship, obligated public health
11 service and obligated national service, elects to serve as a
12 practitioner of allopathic medicine, dentistry, optometry or
13 veterinary medicine in a designated, underserved area in the
14 State is forgiven 25% of the original outstanding indebtedness
15 for each year of that practice.

16 A. Any student electing to complete an entire residency at
17 any family practice residency program in the State is
18 forgiven 50% of the original outstanding indebtedness upon
19 completion.

22 B. Any student electing to serve as a practitioner of
23 allopathic medicine or any other underserved specialty area
24 established by rule under this chapter who practices in an
25 underserved geographic area is forgiven the larger of 25% of
26 the original outstanding indebtedness or \$10,000 for each
27 year of that practice.

28 Any student who elects to practice in the State and receives the
29 benefits of these provisions shall provide a reasonable level of
30 service to all patients regardless of their ability to pay,
31 including Medicare and Medicaid patients, and participate in
32 public health clinics where necessary.

34 This subsection applies to all contract students commencing their
35 professional education on or after July 1, 1981 and prior to
36 January 1, 1993.

38 **3. Determination.** The Commissioner of Human Services shall
39 determine underserved areas for the practice of allopathic
40 medicine, dentistry and optometry.

42 The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall
43 determine underserved areas for the practice of veterinary
44 medicine.

46 **4. Deferment.** Contract students under this section who,
47 during the repayment period, either return to a Maine practice
48 and then leave the State or who initially remain outside the
49 State and then return to a Maine practice may seek a deferment of
50

2 the annual principal and interest payments while outside the
3 State for a period of time not to exceed 3 years. Interest must
4 be assessed during this time and the student's total debt to the
5 authority, including principal and interest, must be repaid
6 either through return service or cash payments as established by
7 the chief executive officer. Requests for deferments must be
8 made to the chief executive officer, who shall make a
9 determination on a case-by-case basis. The decision of the chief
10 executive officer is final.

11 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §11805**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 572 and
12 c. 612, §6, is repealed.

13 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §11806, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 1985, c.
14 455, §§7, 8 and 11, is repealed.

15 **Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §11806, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1989, c.
16 698, §22 and affected by §76, is repealed.

17 **Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §11807**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 698, §23
18 and affected by §76, is repealed.

19 **Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §12005**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 612, §§10
20 and 11, is further amended to read:

21 **§12005. Agreement for osteopathic loan students after July 1,
22 1981 and prior to January 1, 1993**

23 **1. Agreement.** Any osteopathic loan student commencing
24 professional education on or after July 1, 1981, and prior to
25 January 1, 1993 shall, as a condition precedent to receiving the
26 loan, enter into an agreement with the Commissioner-of-Education
27 authority stating that following completion of professional
28 education including internship, residency, fellowship, obligated
29 public health service or obligated national service the student
30 will pay the State an amount of money equal to the loan received.

31 ~~After--March--16--1990--the--agreement--provided--for--in--this~~
32 ~~subsection--must--be--entered--into--by--the--student--and--the--authority.~~

33 **2. Repayment.** This amount is payable at 9% simple annual
34 interest over a period not to exceed 10 years; however, students
35 may extend the repayment period by one to 10 years with the
36 approval of the chief executive officer for a total repayment
37 period not to exceed 20 years. These payments commence at such
38 time as the student concludes professional education under rules
39 promulgated adopted by the authority.

40 **3. Deferment.** Any student who has received a loan under
41 this section who, during the repayment period, either returns to
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2 a Maine practice and then leaves the State or who initially
remains out of state and then returns to a Maine practice may
4 seek a deferment of the annual principal and interest payments
while outside the State for a period of time not to exceed 3
6 years. Interest must be assessed during this time and the
student's total debt to the authority, including principal and
8 interest, must be repaid either through return service or cash
payments within 10 years from the date that marks the beginning
10 of the repayment period. Requests for deferments must be made to
the chief executive officer, who shall make a determination on a
12 case-by-case basis. The decision of the chief executive officer
is final.

14 **4. Forgiveness.** Any student who, upon the conclusion of
the student's professional education, including, if applicable,
16 internship, residency, fellowship, obligated public health
service, and obligated national service, as defined in section
18 11802, subsection 7, elects to serve as a practitioner of
osteopathic medicine in a designated, underserved area, as
20 determined by the Commissioner of Human Services and as defined
in section 11802, subsection 6, in the State is forgiven 25% of
22 the original outstanding indebtedness for each year of that
practice.

24 A. Any student electing to complete an entire residency at
26 any family practice residency program in the State is
forgiven 50% of the original outstanding indebtedness upon
28 completion.

30 B. Any student who practices osteopathic medicine in an
underserved geographic area is forgiven the larger of 25% of
32 the original outstanding indebtedness or \$10,000 for each
year of that practice.

34 Any student who elects to practice in the State and receive the
36 benefits of these provisions shall provide a reasonable level of
service to all patients regardless of their ability to pay,
38 including Medicare and Medicaid patients, and participate in
public health clinics where necessary.

40 **Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA c. 424** is enacted to read:

42

CHAPTER 424

44

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RECRUITMENT

46

§12101. Definitions

48

50 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

2 1. Authority. "Authority" means the Finance Authority of
3 Maine.

4 2. Chief executive officer. "Chief executive officer"
5 means the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of
6 Maine.

7 3. Clinical education. "Clinical education" means any
8 on-location teaching environment ranging from a one-to-one
9 training between a physician and a medical student to a training
10 in a health clinic or hospital with or without a residency
11 program.

12 4. Health professional shortage area. "Health professional
13 shortage area" means an area in the State lacking in medical
14 professionals as designated by the Commissioner of Human Services.

15 5. Insufficient veterinary services. "Insufficient
16 veterinary services" means an insufficient number of
17 practitioners of veterinary medicine in either a veterinary
18 specialty or a geographic area, as determined by the Commissioner
19 of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

20 6. Maine resident. "Maine resident" means a person who
21 fulfills criteria for being a Maine resident, as determined by
22 rule of the authority, which at a minimum must include:

23 A. Length of residence in Maine;

24 B. Secondary school attended;

25 C. Legal residence of parents;

26 D. Voting registration;

27 E. Place where taxes are paid; and

28 F. Other indicators the authority establishes.

29 7. Nonresident tuition. "Nonresident tuition" means
30 tuition charged to persons who are not residents in the state
31 where an institution of allopathic or osteopathic medical
32 education with which the authority has a contract is located. If
33 the institution makes no distinction between the tuition charged
34 resident and nonresident students, then "nonresident tuition"
35 means the tuition charged all students.

36 8. Primary health care. "Primary health care" means the
37 practice of general or family medicine, internal medicine,
38 pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology.

2 **9. Underserved group.** "Underserved group" means a
3 population group in the State receiving insufficient primary
4 health care, as determined by the Commissioner of Human Services.

6 **§12102. Comprehensive programs**

8 The chief executive officer shall administer the
9 comprehensive programs established in this chapter to address the
10 shortage of primary health care professionals in underserved
11 areas of the State. With the assistance of the Advisory
12 Committee on Medical Education, established by Title 5, section
13 12004-I, subsection 7, the chief executive officer shall plan,
14 evaluate and update the programs to ensure that Maine residents
15 have access to medical education and to primary health care.

16 **§12103. Access to Medical Education Program**

18 **1. Positions.** The Access to Medical Education Program is
19 established under this section. Under this program, the chief
20 executive officer shall secure up to 20 positions annually for
21 Maine students at schools of allopathic or osteopathic medical
22 education up to an aggregate of 80 positions. Five positions are
23 for students of osteopathic medicine and 15 positions are for
24 students of allopathic medicine. If there is an insufficient
25 number of qualified applicants for positions in either
26 discipline, the chief executive officer may increase or decrease
27 the number of positions available in either discipline. The
28 positions are available only to eligible students commencing
29 professional education on or after January 1, 1993.

31 **2. Application process.** Students shall apply directly to
32 an institution of allopathic or osteopathic medical education
33 with which the authority has a contract to secure positions.

35 **3. Requirements.** Each student obtaining a position in an
36 institution of allopathic or osteopathic medical education shall
37 enter into an agreement with the authority by which the student
38 agrees during the student's medical education to complete
39 clinical education in rural areas and health professional
40 shortage areas of this State as provided in the contract between
41 the institutions of medical education and the authority.

43 **4. Repayment of tuition differential.** A student receiving
44 a position secured by the authority shall enter into an agreement
45 with the authority promising to pay back to the authority any
46 amounts expended by the authority that reduce the nonresident
47 tuition to be paid by the student. Such an agreement must be on
48 the same terms and conditions as the agreement required by
49 section 12104.

2 **§12104. Loans for medical education**

4 The Health Professions Loan Program, referred to in this
6 section as the "program," is established and is administered by
 the authority.

8 **1. Eligibility.** Loans are available to Maine residents
10 pursuing allopathic, osteopathic, optometric, veterinary and
 dentistry education who meet eligibility criteria, established by
 rule of the authority, which at a minimum must require:

12 A. That the student show financial need for a loan; and

14 B. That priority be given to students:

16 (1) Who have previously received a loan pursuant to
18 this section and who exhibit financial need as
 determined by the authority; or

20 (2) Who are participants in the access to medical
22 education program established in this chapter.

24 Loans under this section are available only to eligible students
26 commencing professional education on or after January 1, 1993.

28 **2. State contract students.** Students who entered into
30 agreements pursuant to section 11804-A and who are otherwise
32 eligible are eligible for a loan under this program. Any amount
34 the authority paid on behalf of a state contract student under
 section 11804-A that is not directly used to secure a position at
 a school of medicine is deemed a loan for purposes of determining
 the maximum loan amount a student may receive under this section.

36 **3. Maximum loan amount.** The chief executive officer may
38 establish the maximum loan amount and may provide for a different
 maximum loan amount for applicants in different categories.

40 **4. Allocation of loan fund.** The loan fund must be
 allocated as follows.

42 A. Ninety percent of the loan fund designated for loans
44 must be available for students of allopathic medicine and
 osteopathic medicine.

46 B. Up to 10% of the loan fund designated for loans is
48 available for Maine residents studying optometry, veterinary
 and dental medicine.

2 5. Loan agreement. The student shall enter into a loan
agreement that provides for the following.

4 A. Upon completion of professional education the student
6 shall repay the loan in accordance with the following
 schedule.

8 (1) A loan recipient who does not obtain loan
10 forgiveness pursuant to this section shall repay the
12 entire principal portion of the loan plus simple
14 interest at a rate to be determined by rule of the
16 authority. Interest does not begin to accrue until the
 loan recipient completes medical education, including
 residency and internship. The authority may establish
 differing interest rates to encourage loan recipients
 to practice primary health care medicine in the State.

18 (2) Primary health care physicians and dentists
20 practicing in a designated health professional shortage
22 area or providing services to a designated underserved
24 group are forgiven the larger of 25% of the original
 outstanding indebtedness plus any accrued interest or
 \$7,500 for each year of practice.

26 (3) Veterinarians providing services to Maine
28 residents with insufficient veterinary services are
30 forgiven the larger of 25% of the original outstanding
 indebtedness plus any accrued interest or \$7,500 for
 each year of practice.

32 (4) Any student electing to complete an entire
34 residency at any family practice residency program in
36 the State is forgiven 50% of the original outstanding
38 indebtedness for each year of practice in a designated
 health professional shortage area or for each year in
 which the physician primarily provides medical services
 to an underserved group.

40 B. Loans must be repaid over a term no greater than 10
42 years, except that the chief executive officer may extend an
44 individual's term as necessary to ensure repayment of the
 loan. Repayment must commence when the loan recipient
 completes, withdraws from or otherwise fails to continue
 medical education.

46 C. Any loan recipient who elects to obtain the loan
48 repayment or forgiveness benefits of practicing in the State
 shall provide a reasonable level of service to all patients
 regardless of their ability to pay, including Medicare and

2 Medicaid patients, and participate in public health clinics
3 as necessary.

4 6. Deferments. Deferments may be granted for causes
5 established by rule of the authority. Interest at a rate to be
6 determined by rule of the authority must be assessed during the
7 deferment. The student's total debt to the authority, including
8 principal and interest, must be repaid either through return
9 service or cash payments. The chief executive officer shall make
10 determinations of deferment on a case-by-case basis. The
11 decision of the chief executive officer is final.

12 **§12105. Nonlapsing fund**

13 1. Fund created. A nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving
14 fund under the jurisdiction of the authority is created to carry
15 out the purposes of this chapter. Any unexpended balance in the
16 fund carries over for continued use under this chapter. The
17 authority may receive, invest and expend, on behalf of the fund,
18 money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations, in addition to
19 money appropriated or allocated by the State. Loan repayments
20 under this chapter or other repayments to the authority must be
21 invested by the authority, as provided by law, with the earned
22 income to be added to the fund. Money received by the authority
23 on behalf of the fund, except interest income, must be used for
24 the designated purpose; interest income may be used for the
25 designated purpose or to pay student financial assistance
26 administrative costs incurred by the authority.

27 2. Separate account authorized. The authority may divide
28 the fund into separate accounts it determines necessary or
29 convenient for implementing this chapter, including, but not
30 limited to, accounts reserved for the purchase of positions and
31 accounts reserved for loans.

32 3. Allocation of repayments. The authority may allocate a
33 portion of the annual loan repayments for the purpose of
34 recruiting primary health care physicians for designated health
35 professional shortage areas. That portion may be used:

36 A. To generate additional matching funds for recruitment of
37 physicians for designated health professional shortage
38 areas; or

39 B. In accordance with criteria established by the
40 authority, to encourage primary health care physicians to
41 practice medicine in health professional shortage areas.

2 §12106. Advisory Committee on Medical Education

4 1. Committee. The Advisory Committee on Medical Education,
6 established pursuant to Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 7,
8 shall assist the chief executive officer in evaluating and
10 improving the programs established by this chapter.

12 2. Members. The Advisory Committee on Medical Education
14 consists of the following 20 members:

16 A. Ten members appointed by the chief executive officer and
18 subject to approval by the joint standing committee of the
20 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. Of
22 these members:

24 (1) One must be a representative of a major statewide
26 agency representing allopathic physicians;

28 (2) One must be a representative of a major statewide
30 agency representing osteopathic physicians;

32 (3) One must be a representative of a major statewide
34 agency representing family physicians;

36 (4) One must be a member of the major statewide agency
38 representing hospitals;

40 (5) One must be a representative of the major
42 statewide agency representing community health centers;

44 (6) One must be a representative of a statewide agency
46 representing the State's largest nonprofit health
48 insurance company;

(7) One must be a representative of an association of
commercial health insurance companies doing business in
the State;

(8) One must be a representative of a statewide area
health education center program; and

(9) Two must be at-large members;

B. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's
designee;

C. The Executive Director of the Maine Health Care Finance
Commission or the executive director's designee;

2 D. Three at-large members from areas of the State lacking
3 reasonable access to health care: one appointed by the
4 Governor; one appointed by the President of the Senate; and
5 one appointed by the Speaker of the House of
6 Representatives, all of whom are subject to approval by the
7 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
8 jurisdiction over education matters; and

9
10 E. Five nonvoting members to be appointed by the chief
11 executive officer and subject to approval by the joint
12 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
13 over education matters. These members must include:

14 (1) A chief executive of a family practice residency
15 in the State;

16
17 (2) A representative of an institution of allopathic
18 medical education at which the authority secures
19 positions for students;

20
21 (3) A representative of an institution of osteopathic
22 medical education at which the authority secures
23 positions for students;

24
25 (4) A Maine student who has obtained a position
26 secured by the authority at an institution of
27 allopathic medical education; and

28
29 (5) A Maine student who has obtained a position
30 secured by the authority at an institution of
31 osteopathic medical education.

32
33 3. Vacancies. In the case of vacancies or resignations,
34 appointments must be made as for a new member to fill the
35 vacancies until the expiration of the terms.

36
37 4. Terms. The terms of office for all appointees is 2
38 years.

39
40 **§12107. Rules**

41 The authority shall establish rules necessary to carry out
42 the purposes of this chapter. The Commissioner of Human Services
43 shall develop rules for determining health professional shortage
44 areas for the practice of primary health care medicine and
45 dentistry and for determining underserved groups. The
46 Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources shall
47 develop rules for the determination of inadequate veterinary
48 services. The rules authorized by this section must be adopted
49 in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II.

2 **Sec. 11. Request for proposals.** The Finance Authority of Maine
4 shall prepare and publicize a request for proposals designed to
6 select one or more institutions of allopathic medical education
8 and one or more institutions of osteopathic medical education
10 with education programs that will increase the likelihood of
12 Maine students receiving the benefits of the Access to Medical
14 Education Program to select primary health care specialties and
16 to practice in rural areas of the State. In evaluating
18 institutions of medical education, the authority shall at a
20 minimum consider: whether the institution has a formal
22 department of family medicine; whether the institution is
24 affiliated with primary teaching hospitals with a family practice
26 or general internal medicine residency; the history of the
28 institution of graduating students who practice in rural areas or
30 areas experiencing a shortage in health care professionals; the
32 cost of the program; the special tuition arrangements offered for
34 Maine residents; whether the program requires primary health care
36 rotations in the State; whether the program offers meaningful
rural clinical education that includes goals, objectives and
specific outcomes; whether the program utilizes existing
educational systems within the State; whether the program has any
relationship with Maine residency programs; whether the
institution will include an admission committee member from
Maine; and whether the admission process will allow for a
preference for students from rural areas and students
demonstrating a serious interest in entering primary health care
practice. The authority shall review responses to the request
and enter into a contract with each institution selected. The
contracts may be on such terms and conditions as determined
expedient or necessary by the Chief Executive Officer of the
Finance Authority of Maine to carry out the purposes of the
program. The contracts may include a process to provide priority
for students demonstrating a special interest in entering into
primary health care practice in the State.

38 **Sec. 12. Funds transferred.** On January 1, 1993, any funds
40 remaining in the revolving fund established under the Maine
42 Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11808 and in the State
44 Osteopathic Loan Fund established under Title 20-A, section
12002-A are transferred to and repayments required to be made to
either one of those funds on or after January 1, 1993, must be
paid to the fund established under Title 20-A, section 12105.

46 **Sec. 13. Effect of repeal.** The repeal of the Maine Revised
48 Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11805 accomplished in this Act is
50 not intended to affect contracts existing on or before December
31, 1992 that were entered into pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter
421.

2 6. The bill terminates the use of the existing Osteopathic
Loan Program for new students effective for academic years
beginning in 1993-94.

4
6 7. The bill establishes 2 new programs administered by the
Finance Authority of Maine with 2 main goals: ensuring access to
8 medical education for qualified Maine residents and ensuring
sufficient primary health care practitioners in the State. The
10 purchase of the positions in medical schools and loans to
students are separated to allow loans to be made based on
12 financial need and to reduce the cost of purchasing positions at
medical schools.

14 Under the Access to Medical Education Program, the Chief
16 Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine shall
purchase up to 20 positions annually at schools of allopathic and
18 osteopathic medicine to an aggregate of 80 positions to provide
access to medical education for qualified Maine students.
20 Positions for veterinary, optometry and dentistry students,
provided in the prior program, are eliminated. Contract students
22 in the program must agree to take training designed to encourage
their practice of medicine in rural areas of the State and in
24 areas experiencing a shortage in health care professionals.
Students who pay lower tuition as a result of the authority's
26 contract with the institution of medical education are required
to repay the difference to the authority.

28 The Loans for Medical Education Program in this bill
establishes a need-based loan program designed to encourage Maine
30 students to commence primary health care practices in the State
on completion of their medical education. Loans are available to
32 Maine residents and are based on financial need. Participants in
the Access to Medical Education Program and those who have
34 previously received loans receive priority consideration for
loans. Participants in the existing contract program are
36 eligible for loans under the new program.

38 At least 90% of the loan fund is available for loans to
students of allopathic and osteopathic medicine. Up to 10% of
40 the loan fund is available to students of optometry, dentistry
and veterinary medicine. The loan recipient must enter into a
42 loan agreement providing that the loan will be repaid in cash or
with return service.

44 The bill includes forgiveness provisions for any primary
46 health care physician or dentist practicing in an area determined
by the Department of Human Services to require additional medical
48 professionals; any veterinarian who practices in an area
determined by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural
50 Resources to require additional practitioners of veterinary

2 medicine; and any doctor who completes a family practice
residency in the State.

4 Any loan recipient taking advantage of the provisions for
lower interest or loan forgiveness must agree to provide
6 reasonable service to all patients, regardless of ability to pay.

8 A nonlapsing revolving fund is established. The fund is
available for loans. Interest earned on the fund may be used for
10 expenses of administering the authority's student financial
assistance programs. A portion of annual loan repayments may be
12 used to recruit primary health care physicians to areas of the
State lacking sufficient numbers of primary health care
14 physicians.

16 The authority must establish rules for the administration of
the programs. The Commissioner of Human Services is required to
18 establish rules for the designation of health professional
shortage areas and underserved groups. The Commissioner of
20 Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources is required to establish
rules for the designation of underserved areas for the practice
22 of veterinary medicine.

24 The new programs are effective for students entering medical
school in the fall of 1993 and thereafter.

26 The bill requires the authority to prepare and circulate a
request for proposals for institutions of medical education to
28 participate in the Access to Medical Education Program to
encourage program participants to establish primary health care
30 practices in the State.

32 The bill requires that all loan repayments presently made to
34 the loan fund established under the current postgraduate health
professions program and the osteopathic loan program be made to,
36 and money in those funds be transferred to, the fund established
in this bill.

38 The bill repeals the sunset provision on the authority's
40 student education finance programs, set to take effect on
February 1, 1993.

42 The bill repeals the provision in the Maine Student
44 Incentive Scholarship Program giving priority to full-time
students. This clarifies a discrepancy with legislation enacted
46 in the First Regular Session of the 115th Legislature that allows
an allocation of the fund for awards to part-time students.
48