

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 272

H.P. 210

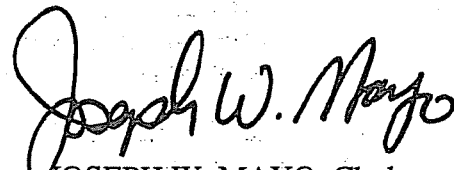
House of Representatives, February 2, 1993

**An Act to License Flight Nurses within the Emergency Medical Services System.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Business Legislation suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative KILKELLY of Wiscasset.  
Cosponsored by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and  
Representatives: GOULD of Greenville, TREAT of Gardiner.

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

4           Whereas, Maine has no dedicated helicopter air ambulance  
6 services in operation that are capable of transporting patients  
from the scene of their illness or injury and providing advanced  
8 emergency medical care en route; and

10           Whereas, Maine has no provision to license flight nurses for  
air ambulance services; and

12           Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
14 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
16 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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

20           **Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§23** is enacted to read:

22           23. Flight nurse. "Flight nurse" means an emergency  
24 medical services person who is:

26           A. Licensed by the State Board of Nursing as a registered  
nurse; and

28           B. Licensed by the board to perform advanced emergency  
30 medical treatment on an air ambulance, at the scenes of  
32 illness or injury to which an air ambulance is called and  
34 with other emergency medical services persons and health  
care practitioners during transfer of patients from the air  
ambulance to the staff at the receiving hospital.

36           **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §85, sub-§2** as amended by PL 1991, c. 742,  
§1, is further amended to read:

38           **2. Advanced emergency medical treatment.** With the advice  
40 and consultation noted in subsection 1, the board may provide, by  
rule, which advanced skills, techniques and judgments may be  
42 supervised by a physician by means of standing orders, by voice  
radio and by other means. Nothing in this section may preclude  
44 protocols in a particular region from imposing controls more  
strict than those permitted by the board's rules on the use of a  
46 skill, technique or judgment. In every case, advanced emergency  
medical treatment must be given in accordance with protocols.

48           The board may establish by rule appropriate licensure levels for  
50 advanced emergency medical technicians and fix the qualifications  
for persons to hold those licenses. Licensure levels must  
52 include, but are not limited to, "flight nurse."

2           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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#### STATEMENT OF FACT

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8           This bill requires Maine Emergency Medical Services to  
license flight nurses, a category of emergency personnel  
10 currently not recognized in Maine. Only registered nurses  
qualify to be licensed as flight nurses.