

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 201

H.P. 160

House of Representatives, January 21, 2003

An Act to Establish the Health Care Workforce Center

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and
Representatives: BLANCHETTE of Bangor, DUGAY of Cherryfield, GOODWIN of
Pembroke, HUTTON of Bowdoinham, O'BRIEN of Lewiston, PELLON of Machias,
SUSLOVIC of Portland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§49-C** is enacted to read:

6 49-C. Health Care Expenses 22 MRSA
Human Services Workforce Only §1718
8 Center

10 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1718** is enacted to read:

12 **§1718. Health Care Workforce Center**

14 There is established the Health Care Workforce Center,
referred to in this section as "the center," to provide an
ongoing strategy for the allocation of the State's resources to
the health care workforce in this State, in particular nurses and
physician's assistants.

18 **1. Purposes.** The purposes of the center are:

20 A. To develop a strategic statewide plan for the health
care workforce by establishing and maintaining a database on
the current and projected supply and demand for nurses and
physician's assistants;

26 B. To convene representatives of nurses and physician's
assistants, other health care providers, businesses,
consumers, educators and Legislators to review and comment
on data prepared for the center, to recommend systemic
changes and strategies for implementation of recommended
changes and to report periodically on progress regarding the
health care workforce; and

34 C. To enhance and promote the recruitment, recognition and
retention of the health care workforce, including efforts
regarding excellence in the health care workforce
professions and positive media presentations and public
relations.

40 **2. Board.** The center is directed by a board of 8 members
in accordance with this subsection.

42 A. The Governor shall appoint 2 members, one who is a
registered nurse and one who represents a statewide
association of providers of long-term care. Of the initial
appointees, the Governor shall designate one to serve a
one-year term and one to serve a 2-year term.

48 B. The President of the Senate shall appoint 3 members, one
who represents a statewide association of nurses and one who
50

2 represents a statewide association of hospitals. Of the
3 initial appointees, the President shall designate one to
4 serve a one-year term and 2 to serve 2-year terms.

5
6 C. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 3 members, one
7 who is a registered nurse who represents a statewide
8 association of nurse executives and one who represents nurse
9 educators. Of the initial appointees, the Speaker shall
10 designate 2 to serve 2-year terms and one to serve a
11 one-year term.

12 D. Except as provided in paragraphs A to C, all members of
13 the board serve for 2-year terms.

14
15 E. At the first meeting of the board each year, the board
16 shall elect a member to serve as chair.

17
18 F. Board members not otherwise compensated by their
19 employers may be reimbursed for expenses for their service
20 on the board.

21
22 3. Powers. The center may employ an executive director and
23 may seek and accept outside funding to support the work of the
24 center.

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26 **Sec. 3. Effective date.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2004.

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29 **SUMMARY**

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32 This bill establishes the Health Care Workforce Center to
33 provide an ongoing strategy for the allocation of the State's
34 resources to the health care workforce in this State. The center
35 will develop a strategic plan, convene groups of interested
36 parties to recommend systemic changes and enhance and promote
recruitment, recognition and retention of the health care
workforce. The center will be directed by an 8-member board.