

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 892

S.P. 300

In Senate, February 22, 2005

An Act To Ensure an Adequate Supply of a Skilled Health Care Workforce

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator WESTON of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Representative CURLEY of Scarborough and
Senators: DOW of Lincoln, ROSEN of Hancock, Representatives: PERRY of Calais,
PINGREE of North Haven, RECTOR of Thomaston.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §256**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 579, §3, is
5 repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §§256-A and 256-B** are enacted to read:

7 **§256-A. Health care occupations report**

8
9 Beginning in 2006, the Department of Labor, in conjunction
10 with the Office of Health Data and Program Management's Office of
11 Data, Research and Vital Statistics, shall compile and annually
12 update a health care occupations report to be completed and
13 presented to the health workforce forum established in section
14 257 by September 15th. The report must be posted on a publicly
15 accessible site on the Internet maintained by the Department of
16 Labor and provide the following information:

17
18 **1. Listing.** A listing of all health care occupations
19 licensed, registered or certified under the authority of the
20 boards listed in section 256-B, including:

21
22 **A.** A brief description of each occupation;

23
24 **B.** Minimum education requirements;

25
26 **C.** Schools in the State offering education in those health
27 care occupations, including current enrollment and annual
28 number of graduates; and

29
30 **D.** Average starting salary for each health care occupation
31 listed;

32
33 **2. Future outlook.** An analysis of trends and the current
34 outlook in employment supply and demand, including implications
35 for the state and health care industry; and

36
37 **3. Financial aid.** Financial aid available for education.

38
39 **§256-B. Collection of professional data**

40
41 **1. Voluntary surveys.** All licensed, registered or
42 certified persons, including all dependent practitioners, under
43 the authority of the following boards must receive a voluntary
44 survey with their licensure, registration or certification
45 renewal beginning January 1, 2006:

46
47 **A.** Emergency Medical Services Board;

48
49 **B.** Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners;

- 2 C. Board of Occupation Therapy Practice;
4 D. Board of Examiners on Speech Pathology and Audiology;
6 E. Maine Board of Pharmacy;
8 F. State Board of Nursing;
10 G. Board of Licensure in Medicine;
12 H. Board of Osteopathic Licensure;
14 I. Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy;
16 J. Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners;
18 K. Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice;
20 L. State Board of Social Worker Licensure;
22 M. Board of Dental Examiners;
24 N. State Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors; and
26 O. State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

28 2. Information requested on survey. The voluntary surveys
30 issued pursuant to subsection 1 must request the following
32 information from persons seeking renewal of their licenses,
34 registrations and certifications:

- 36 A. Home zip code;
38 B. Business zip code;
40 C. Birth year;
42 D. Gender;
44 E. Race;
46 F. Current employment status: employed in a health care
48 field, employed in another field, seeking health care
 employment, temporarily not working and not seeking work,
 retired or not intending to return to work, or some
 specified other status;

2 G. Practice setting: a hospital, private practice,
4 community clinic or nursing home; an academic, governmental
6 or other institution; or some specified other setting;

8 H. Field of licensure, registration or certification;

10 I. Specialty credential, if any;

12 J. Whether the person plans to be working in health care 5
14 years from now;

16 K. Basic and advanced education, degree earned and state
18 where educated;

20 L. Number of hours hired to work in the person's primary
22 position per week, average hours worked per week, preferred
24 number of hours per week and number of hours providing
26 direct care per week;

28 M. In addition to the person's primary position, number of
30 hours worked per week for other health care employers, if
32 any; and

34 N. If not working in a health care occupation, the reasons:
36 issues of wages or benefits, inability to find position
38 desired, pursuit of education opportunities, pursuit of
40 other career opportunity, retirement or some other specified
42 reason.

44 **3. Submission of surveys.** All surveys conducted pursuant
46 to subsection 1 must be submitted to the Office of Health Data
48 and Program Management's Office of Data, Research and Vital
50 Statistics for analysis, and survey data from which personally
52 identifiable information has been eliminated must be publicly
54 available.

56 **4. Rulemaking.** Rules adopted to implement this section are
58 routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
60 subchapter 2-A.

62 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §257,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 653, Pt. C,
64 §2 and affected by §3, is amended to read:

66 **§257. Health workforce forum**

68 The department shall convene at least once annually a health
70 workforce forum to review the report developed under section 256
72 and discuss health care workforce issues. The forum must include
74 representatives of health professionals, licensing boards and,

2 employers, health education programs and the Department of
3 Labor. The forum shall:

4 **1. --- Inventory. ---** Develop an inventory of present health
5 workforce and educational programs; and

6 **2. --- Research. ---** Develop research and analytical methods for
7 understanding population based health care needs on an ongoing
8 basis.

9
10 Through the forum, the department shall serve as a
11 clearinghouse for information relating to health workforce
12 issues. The department shall use the information gathered
13 through the forum to develop its health policy and planning
14 decisions authorized under this Title and to make appropriate
15 policy recommendations based on its analysis of the health care
16 workforce. The department shall post its annual report and
17 recommendations on a publicly accessible site on the Internet
18 maintained by the department by December 31st of each year,
19 beginning in 2006.
20

22 SUMMARY

23 This bill accomplishes the following.

24
25 1. It directs the Department of Labor to compile and post
26 on-line a report on health care occupations.

27
28 2. It requires that certain licensed, registered and
29 certified health care workers receive a voluntary survey to allow
30 the collection of data on health care occupations.

31
32 3. It adds a representative of the Department of Labor to
33 the health workforce forum established in the Maine Revised
34 Statutes, Title 22, section 257.

35
36 4. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services
37 to post on its website its recommendations based on its review of
38 the health workforce forum's report.
39
40