

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 799

H.P. 587

House of Representatives, February 12, 2019

### **An Act To Increase Faculty in Nursing Education Programs**

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Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative JORGENSEN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives: FAY of Raymond, HYMANSON of York, PERRY of Calais, STEWART of Presque Isle, Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, CARSON of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, SANBORN, L. of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1019, sub-§§2 and 4**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 417, §1, are  
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Criteria.** For an applicant to participate in the nursing education loan repayment  
5 program established under subsection 1, the applicant must:

6 A. Be a nurse;

7 B. ~~Complete~~ Be currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral degree program in  
8 nursing or have completed a master's or doctoral degree in nursing;

9 C. Possess an outstanding education loan relating to the master's or doctoral nursing  
10 degree; and

11 D. Sign a statement of intent in a form acceptable to the authority to work as full-  
12 time nursing faculty in a nursing education program in the State for a minimum of ~~3~~ 5  
13 years after acceptance into the nursing education loan repayment program.

14 **4. Administration.** The nursing education loan repayment program and the nursing  
15 education loan repayment fund are administered by the authority. The authority shall  
16 repay the loan of an applicant who meets the criteria in subsection 2 in the amount of up  
17 to ~~\$4,500~~ \$30,000 for a master's degree and up to ~~\$6,000~~ \$60,000 for a doctoral degree.  
18 The authority may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. Rules adopted  
19 pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,  
20 subchapter 2-A.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill amends the nursing education loan repayment program as follows:

23 1. It extends eligibility to apply to individuals who are currently enrolled in master's  
24 or doctoral degree programs;

25 2. It specifies that applicants must indicate an intention to work as full-time nursing  
26 faculty in a nursing education program in the State, and increases the required  
27 commitment from 3 to 5 years after acceptance into the nursing education loan repayment  
28 program;

29 3. It increases the maximum amount of loans eligible for repayment under the  
30 program from \$4,500 to \$30,000 for a master's degree, and from \$6,000 to \$60,000 for a  
31 doctoral degree.