

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 872

H.P. 646

House of Representatives, February 19, 2019

An Act To Forgive Education Debt for Certain Health Care Professionals Who Work in the State

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 MASTRACCIO of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick,
DENNO of Cumberland, DOORE of Augusta, FECTION of Biddeford, TEPLER of Topsham,
TIPPING of Orono, Senator: SANBORN, H. of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 110, sub-c. 13** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 13**

4 **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT**
5 **PROGRAM**

6 **§1100-AA. Health Care Professional Education Loan Repayment Program**

7 **1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this subchapter, unless the context otherwise
8 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

9 A. "Federally designated health professional shortage area" means a geographic area
10 experiencing a health care provider shortage as determined by the federal Department
11 of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration,
12 Bureau of Health Workforce.

13 B. "Fund" means the Health Care Professional Education Loan Repayment Fund
14 established in subsection 6.

15 C. "Program" means the Health Care Professional Education Loan Repayment
16 Program established in subsection 2.

17 **2. Program established.** The Health Care Professional Education Loan Repayment
18 Program is established for the purpose of increasing the number of health care
19 professionals practicing in the State.

20 **3. Criteria.** For an applicant to participate in the program, the applicant must:

21 A. Be a health care professional licensed under Title 32, chapter 31, 36 or 48 or a
22 comparable provision in another jurisdiction;

23 B. Possess outstanding education debt;

24 C. Submit an application to the authority; and

25 D. Have signed a statement of intent in a form acceptable to the authority to live and
26 work as a health care professional in the State for a minimum of 5 years after
27 acceptance into the program.

28 **4. Debt repayment.** The authority shall repay the education debt of a health care
29 professional who meets the criteria in subsection 3 and is approved by the authority in the
30 following manner:

31 A. If the place of employment of the health care professional in the State is not in a
32 federally designated health professional shortage area, the authority shall repay the
33 education debt of the health care professional in the amount of 20% of the
34 outstanding debt owed at the time of application or \$25,000, whichever is lower, per
35 year of the health care professional's participation in the program up to a total of
36 \$125,000; or

- 1 professional who is employed in a federally designated health professional shortage area.
- 2 The program is contingent on funding from the proceeds from the renewal of the contract
- 3 for the operations of the State's wholesale spirits business.