MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 19

H.P. 23

House of Representatives, December 30, 2022

An Act to Authorize the National Institute of Funeral Service to Grant Associate Degrees

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

Clerk

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 3 Whereas, funeral service has historically been a foundation of American society; in 4 the 21st century there is a need for funeral instruction to be reinvented and there is a need 5 in the State to have a learning process that mirrors how people work and live in these dramatically changing times; and 7 Whereas, funeral education and training environments attract professional, diverse 8 and responsible populations to their communities; and 9 Whereas, the National Institute of Funeral Service offers education in the fields of 10 embalming, funeral directing and funeral arts and intends to offer in Maine an associate degree of applied science in funeral service; and 11 12 Whereas, authorization by the Legislature is required for any institution of higher 13 education to confer academic, educational, literary or professional degrees, upon the 14 recommendation of the State Board of Education; and 15 Whereas, it is necessary for the Legislature to grant this authority in order that the institute may begin offering its degree program for the school year beginning in April 2023; 16 17 and 18 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 19 20 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 21 therefore, 22 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 23 Sec. 1. Degree. The National Institute of Funeral Service, a corporation organized 24 and existing under the laws of the State, may confer on all students who successfully 25 complete its prescribed course of study the degree of Associate of Applied Science in 26 Funeral Service as is usually conferred by like institutions of higher education. 27 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation 28 takes effect when approved. 29 **SUMMARY** 30 This bill authorizes the National Institute of Funeral Service to grant the degree of 31 Associate of Applied Science in Funeral Service.