

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1797

S.P. 722

In Senate, April 25, 2023

An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Expanding Educational Opportunities and Providing Tax Credits

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland and
Senators: CURRY of Waldo, DUSON of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MEYER of Eliot, MILLETT of Waterford, ROBERTS of South Berwick.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1019, sub-§2, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. CC, §1,
3 is further amended to read:

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

7 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1019, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. CC, §2, is
8 further amended to read:

9 **4. Administration.** The nursing education loan repayment program and the nursing
10 education loan repayment fund are administered by the authority. The authority shall repay
11 the loan of an applicant who meets the criteria in subsection 2 in the amount of up to
12 \$20,000 for a master's degree and up to \$40,000 for a doctoral degree for full-time nursing
13 faculty and in the amount of up to \$10,000 for a master's degree and up to \$20,000 for a
14 doctoral degree for part-time nursing faculty. The authority may adopt rules to carry out
15 the purposes of this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine
16 technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

17 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA c. 279** is enacted to read:

18 **CHAPTER 279**

19 **MAINE HEALTH CARE EDUCATION TRAINING AND MEDICAL**
20 **RESIDENCY FUND**

21 **§1700-H. Maine Health Care Education Training and Medical Residency Fund**

22 **1. Fund established.** The Maine Health Care Education Training and Medical
23 Residency Fund, referred to in this chapter as "the fund," is established within the
24 department as a dedicated, nonlapsing account to support rural health care and physician
25 workforce development. The fund is authorized to receive revenue from public and private
26 sources.

27 **2. Fund sources and administration.** The fund consists of amounts appropriated or
28 allocated by the State. The department may apply for federal and private grant funding to
29 cover the costs of the program under this section. Money received by the department on
30 behalf of the fund must be used for the purposes of this chapter. The fund must be
31 maintained and administered by the department. Any unexpended balance in the fund
32 carries forward for continued use under this chapter, except for federal funds that must be
33 expended according to guidelines issued by the Federal Government governing the use of
34 those funds.

35 **3. Use of fund.** The department shall make distributions from the fund to programs
36 based in the State to support the following purposes:

37 A. Expanding rural primary care clinical rotations for 3rd-year medical students to
38 support long-term professional practice in the rural parts of the State;

- 1 B. Expanding rural primary care clinical rotations for 4th-year medical students to
2 support long-term professional practice in the rural parts of the State;
- 3 C. Expanding rural primary care clinical residency placements in the State;
- 4 D. Supporting statewide rural health care learning platforms to support education and
5 teaching of interprofessional health care students, faculty and preceptors;
- 6 E. Supporting programs that seek to develop local health care education leaders;
- 7 F. Expanding rural clinical preceptorships, including the cost of preceptor recruiting
8 and training and compensation for preceptor time; and
- 9 G. Supporting electronic platforms used to make clinical placements in rural areas.

10 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted
11 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
12 subchapter 2-A.

13 **Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §5219-AAA** is enacted to read:

14 **§5219-AAA. New nurse retention credit**

15 **1. Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible
16 nurse" means a person licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 who, on or after January 1, 2023:

17 A. Practices nursing in the State in a health care facility that is licensed under Title 22,
18 chapter 405; and

19 B. Has not practiced nursing in this State or in any other jurisdiction prior to January
20 1, 2023.

21 **2. Credit.** For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, an eligible nurse
22 certified under subsection 3 is allowed a credit against the taxes imposed under this Part as
23 follows:

24 A. The credit may be claimed in the first year that the eligible nurse meets the
25 conditions of eligibility for at least 6 months and each of the subsequent 2 years;

26 B. The credit may be claimed in an amount equal to \$500 in the first year, \$500 in the
27 2nd year and \$500 in the 3rd year; and

28 C. The credit may not reduce the tax due under this Part to less than zero.

29 **3. Eligibility limitation; certification.** The State Board of Nursing shall certify
30 eligible nurses and may certify no more than 1,000 eligible nurses each year. The board
31 shall monitor recipients to ensure that they continue to be eligible for the credit under this
32 section and shall decertify any recipient who ceases to meet the conditions of eligibility.
33 The board shall notify the bureau whenever a nurse is certified or decertified. A decertified
34 recipient ceases to be eligible for the credit under this section beginning with the tax year
35 during which the recipient is decertified.

36 **4. Rules.** The State Board of Nursing may adopt rules to implement this section.
37 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
38 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

39 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
40 allocations are made.

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE | | |
| 2 | Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Fund Z090 | | |
| 3 | Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Fund | | |
| 4 | within the Finance Authority of Maine. | | |
| 5 | GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 6 | All Other | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$1,000,000</u> | <u>\$1,000,000</u> |
| 9 | Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program Fund Z330 | | |
| 10 | Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to the Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment | | |
| 11 | Program Fund within the Finance Authority of Maine. | | |
| 12 | GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 13 | All Other | \$4,000,000 | \$4,000,000 |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$4,000,000</u> | <u>\$4,000,000</u> |
| 16 | Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program Z331 | | |
| 17 | Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the nursing education loan repayment program | | |
| 18 | within the Finance Authority of Maine for loan repayments for eligible nurses that meet | | |
| 19 | the established criteria. | | |
| 20 | GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 21 | All Other | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$1,000,000</u> | <u>\$1,000,000</u> |
| 24 | | | |
| 25 | FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE | | |
| 26 | DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 27 | | | |
| 28 | GENERAL FUND | \$6,000,000 | \$6,000,000 |
| 29 | | | |
| 30 | DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | <u>\$6,000,000</u> | <u>\$6,000,000</u> |
| 31 | HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF | | |
| 32 | Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142 | | |
| 33 | Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to increase the critical health care workforce by | | |
| 34 | providing incentives to providers to serve as preceptors and clinical sites for health care | | |
| 35 | students who require clinical hours and related oversight. | | |
| 36 | GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 37 | All Other | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| 38 | | | |
| 39 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$300,000</u> | <u>\$300,000</u> |
| 40 | Maine Health Care Education Training and Medical Residency Fund N433 | | |

1 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to the Maine Health Care Education Training and
2 Medical Residency Fund.

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 3 | GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 4 | All Other | \$4,885,000 | \$4,885,000 |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$4,885,000</u> | <u>\$4,885,000</u> |

7
8 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,**
9 **DEPARTMENT OF**
10 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 11 | | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 12 | GENERAL FUND | \$5,185,000 | \$5,185,000 |
| 13 | | | |
| 14 | DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | <u>\$5,185,000</u> | <u>\$5,185,000</u> |

15
16 **SECTION TOTALS**

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 17 | | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 18 | GENERAL FUND | \$11,185,000 | \$11,185,000 |
| 19 | | | |
| 20 | SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | <u>\$11,185,000</u> | <u>\$11,185,000</u> |

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill does the following.

23 1. It makes part-time faculty eligible for the nursing education loan repayment
24 program, with loans of up to \$10,000 for a master's degree and up to \$20,000 for a doctoral
25 degree.

26 2. It provides for \$1,000,000 in ongoing annual appropriations to the nursing education
27 loan repayment program.

28 3. It establishes the Maine Health Care Education Training and Medical Residency
29 Fund and appropriates \$4,885,000 annually to the fund to establish clinical training
30 opportunities for 3rd-year and 4th-year medical students in the rural parts of the State.

31 4. It provides for \$4,000,000 in ongoing annual appropriations to the Maine Health
32 Care Provider Loan Repayment Program Fund.

33 5. It provides for \$1,000,000 in ongoing annual appropriations to the Doctors for
34 Maine's Future Scholarship Program.

35 6. It establishes a new income tax credit of up to \$500 a year for new nurses, for 3
36 years per eligible nurse, for employment in a licensed health care facility in the State. It
37 directs the State Board of Nursing to certify eligible nurses for the tax credit. It limits the
38 tax credit to 1,000 nurses per year.

39 7. It provides for \$300,000 in ongoing annual appropriations to support incentives for
40 clinical preceptorships.