

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 203**

H. P. 341

House of Representatives, February 2, 1943.

Referred to Committee on Public Health, ordered printed and sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Sayward of Kennebunk.

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## STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FORTY-THREE

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**AN ACT to Enable Towns to Obtain State Aid in Securing Public Health  
Nursing Service.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, the present world conflict creates, in the opinion of this legislature an emergency in health hazards, particularly in rural areas, due to the necessary induction of a large number of practicing physicians into the armed services and consequent difficulty of securing medical care; and

Whereas, it is deemed a public responsibility to supplement such medical care as is available, by providing the greatest possible amount of trained nursing care to persons unable to otherwise obtain such care; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of Article XXXI of the constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety; now therefore,

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

**General public health nursing service; appropriation; qualifications of nurses.** Two or more adjoining towns may unite in employing the same public health nurse, whose duty shall be to carry on a general public health

nursing service. Any program established under this act shall be carried on according to accepted standards for such service, and shall include bedside care of the sick under plans approved by the director of health in accordance with regulations which may be adopted by the department of health and welfare under provisions of section 8 of chapter 1 of the public laws of 1933, as amended.

Towns desiring to take advantage of this act are hereby empowered to appropriate or raise money for the foregoing purpose at any annual town meeting, or during the war emergency, at any special town meeting called for the purpose.

The state may contribute not exceeding 50% per annum on account of the salary and travel of any such public health nurse whose qualifications meet the requirements of the state bureau of health; and the entire salary and necessary travel of such nurses shall be paid by the state bureau of health when an amount equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  such salary and travel has been paid to the treasurer of state to be credited to the public health nursing account of said bureau, provided that no contribution may be made by the state for services provided for in this act where the total population of any town exceeds 6,000 as shown by the 1940 U. S. census.

The state share of the above contributions may be paid from the state appropriation for public health nursing, or from federal grants to the state when plans are approved by the granting agency.

Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent contiguous towns, or single towns or cities, from employing qualified public health nurses on their own account, or in conjunction with private agencies who are contributing to the salaries of such nurses in whole or in part, provided the services of such nurses include a program equivalent to an acceptable generalized public health program, and so organized that there is no duplication of work or travel.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.