



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.

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

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
6 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
11 degree of applied science in funeral service; and

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
16 institute may begin offering its degree program for the school year beginning in April 2023;
17 and

18 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
19 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
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.