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H.P. 620

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 6, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and

Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, GRAHAM of North

Yarmouth, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland.

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, Maine faces a growing crisis in meeting the physical and mental health care 4 needs of its residents due in part to the urgent shortage of health care professionals qualified 5 to meet those needs; and 6 Whereas, certified nurse practitioners are highly qualified to provide such care and are uniquely positioned to assist patients; and 7 8 Whereas, Maine recognizes 4 categories of nurses that may qualify to provide advanced practice registered nursing, but only certified nurse practitioners are subject to a 9 2-year supervision requirement; and 10 11 Whereas, that supervision requirement prevents needed, highly qualified advanced 12 practice registered nurses from practicing in Maine; and 13 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 14 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 15 therefore, 16 17 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 18 Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 316, §1, is further amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph. 19 20 Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 316, §2, is repealed. 21 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved. 22 23 **SUMMARY** 24 This bill repeals the provision of law requiring that a certified nurse practitioner who 25 qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must practice for at least 24 months under 26

the supervision of a physician or supervising nurse practitioner or be employed by a clinic or hospital that has a medical director who is a licensed physician. The bill also eliminates the supervising nurse practitioner designation, which is no longer needed.

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