



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1613

H.P. 1067

House of Representatives, April 15, 2025

**An Act to Establish Maine's Care Force to Address the State's
Health Care Crisis**

(EMERGENCY)

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 11, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston,
HASENFUS of Readfield, MALON of Biddeford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RAY of
Lincolntonville, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

- 1 B. Commit to a 3-year service contract; and
- 2 C. Pass a background check and meet screening criteria established by the department.

3 **5. Training.** The department shall develop and administer a training curriculum for
4 participants, which must include:

- 5 A. Care of older adults, children and individuals with disabilities;
- 6 B. Physical activity and gameplay for the purpose of enhancing resilience and
7 teamwork;
- 8 C. Life skills, financial literacy and English language training; and
- 9 D. Certifications in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and medication
10 management.

11 **6. Participant benefits.** The department shall provide participants with the following:

- 12 A. Comprehensive health care coverage, including medical, dental and vision
13 coverage;
- 14 B. Subsidized housing near placement sites, supported by monthly stipends during
15 training and placement; and
- 16 C. Skills certifications.

17 **7. Placement and support of participants.** The department shall coordinate
18 placement of participants for employment in private homes, facilities and community-
19 based settings and shall provide ongoing mentorship and mental health resources. The
20 department shall coordinate with placement sites to provide compensation to participants
21 for services.

22 **8. Funding.** The department may accept and administer loans, grants or other funds or
23 gifts, conditional or otherwise, in furtherance of its functions, from the Federal Government
24 and from other sources, public or private.

25 **9. Evaluation.** The department shall provide for independent evaluations of Maine's
26 Care Force every 5 years in order to assess effectiveness and recommend improvements.

27 **10. Reports.** Beginning January 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the department shall
28 submit a report to the Governor and to the joint committee of the Legislature having
29 jurisdiction over health and human services matters that includes:

- 30 A. The number of participants trained and placed during the prior year;
- 31 B. Retention rates of participants;
- 32 C. The results of participant satisfaction surveys; and
- 33 D. A financial statement, including expenditures and funding sources.

34 **§794. Rules**

35 The department shall adopt rules to implement this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to
36 this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

37 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
38 allocations are made.

39 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

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Maine's Care Force N967

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the Maine's Care Force program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$32,000,000	\$32,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$32,000,000</u>	<u>\$32,000,000</u>

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes Maine's Care Force, a program within the Department of Health and Human Services to place individuals trained as essential support workers by the department in private homes, facilities and community-based settings. It provides for ongoing annual appropriations of \$32,000,000 to support the program.