



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 904

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H.P. 560

House of Representatives, February 28, 2023

### An Act Supporting the Rural Health Care Workforce in Maine

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative OSHER of Orono.  
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and  
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, PERRY of Calais,  
SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: BAILEY of York, BENNETT of Oxford, TIPPING of  
Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1728** is enacted to read:

3 **§1728. Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund**

4 **1. Fund established.** The Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund,  
5 referred to in this chapter as "the fund," is established to support rural primary care and  
6 health professions workforce development as a dedicated, nonlapsing account within the  
7 department.

8 **2. Sources of fund.** The fund consists of amounts appropriated or allocated by the  
9 State.

10 **3. Use of fund.** The department shall make distributions from the fund to support the  
11 following purposes:

12 A. Expanding rural longitudinal primary care clinical rotations for 3rd-year medical  
13 students to support long-term professional practice in the rural part of the State;

14 B. Expanding rural primary care clinical rotations for 4th-year medical students to  
15 support long-term professional practice in the rural part of the State;

16 C. Expanding rural primary care clinical residency placements in the State; and

17 D. Supporting the long-term sustainability of rural clinical preceptorship programs to  
18 provide support for students in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs.

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

22 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
23 allocations are made.

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

25 **Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund N424**

26 Initiative: Provides funding for the Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund.

27 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
28 All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
29		
30 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill establishes the Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund to  
33 support primary care and health professions workforce development in rural parts of the  
34 State.