



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1597

H.P. 1186

House of Representatives, April 27, 2021

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### **An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Strengthen Maine's Health Care Workforce**

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Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PIERCE of Falmouth.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CRAVEN of Lewiston, MADIGAN of Waterville, MEYER of Eliot, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, SANBORN of Cumberland.





1 affiliated with a center promoting interprofessional health care education and practice  
2 efforts at a university in the State.

3 **PART C**

4 **Sec. C-1. Interprofessional education of health care workers.** Of the bond  
5 issue approved by the voters pursuant to Part A, \$7,000,000 must be used to fund the  
6 University of New England Institute for Interprofessional Education and Practice to  
7 improve and expand collaborative team-based education of health care workers, including  
8 training in the use of telehealth and other technologies, to increase access to high-quality  
9 health care.

10 **PART D**

11 **Sec. D-1. Grants to community-based health care clinics and hospitals.** Of  
12 the bond issue approved by the voters pursuant to Part A, \$4,000,000 must be used to offer  
13 competitive grants pursuant to this Part. The grants must be used to upgrade the capacity  
14 of federally qualified health centers and other community-based health care clinics and  
15 hospitals throughout the State in order to facilitate educational and clinical links to the  
16 University of New England Institute for Interprofessional Education and Practice and to  
17 enhance and expand their capacity to provide access to high-quality health care. The  
18 Department of Health and Human Services shall establish the Health Care Advisory  
19 Committee, referred to in this Part as "the committee."

20 **1. Membership.** The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the  
21 commissioner's designee shall serve as the chair of the committee and shall appoint the  
22 following 6 members:

- 23 A. A representative of critical access hospitals in this State;
- 24 B. A representative of a statewide organization representing low-income individuals;
- 25 C. A representative of an organization representing federally qualified health centers;
- 26 D. A representative of a foundation based in this State committed to improving the  
27 health of citizens in this State who has experience funding direct service for health  
28 care;
- 29 E. An individual representing physicians who has experience with health care; and
- 30 F. A representative of the University of New England.

31 **2. Appointments.** The committee must be appointed and convene within 30 days of  
32 the passage of the referendum set out in Part A.

33 **3. Duties.** The committee shall create an application for grants for interested parties  
34 within 60 days of passage of the referendum in Part A. The committee shall hold a bidders'  
35 conference within 7 days following issuance of the applications, after which an applicant  
36 has 18 days to complete the application. The committee shall award grants before March  
37 1, 2022.

38 **4. Distribution of balance of bond.** The committee shall establish an application  
39 process for the \$4,000,000 in health center, clinic and hospital grants. A recipient of a grant  
40 under this subsection must:

- 41 A. Be from an underserved community that has a demonstrated need for health care;

1 B. Be a qualified health care provider, which includes but is not limited to: federally  
2 qualified health centers, hospitals, veterans' health care facilities, health care facilities  
3 established by the United States Department of Defense serving active duty military  
4 personnel, state-based nonprofit health care centers and municipally supported health  
5 clinics;

6 C. Be established as a health care clinical training site affiliated with the University of  
7 New England; and

8 D. Demonstrate a need for telehealth or other infrastructure to assist in remote learning  
9 and health care delivery.

10 **5. Completion date.** The awarding of grants under this Part must be completed by  
11 December 1, 2023, and following disbursement of these grants the committee terminates.

12 **PART E**

13 **Sec. E-1. Contingent effective date.** Parts B to D take effect only if the bond issue  
14 under Part A is approved by the voters of the State.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$11,000,000, will be used to  
17 provide funding on the following basis: \$7,000,000 to be used for the University of New  
18 England Institute for Interprofessional Education and Practice to improve and expand  
19 collaborative team-based education of health care workers, including training in the use of  
20 telehealth and other technologies, and to increase access to high-quality health care; and  
21 \$4,000,000 to be used to upgrade the capacity of federally qualified health centers and other  
22 community-based health care clinics and hospitals throughout the State in order to facilitate  
23 educational and clinical links with the University of New England Institute for  
24 Interprofessional Education and Practice and to enhance and expand their capacity to  
25 provide access to high-quality health care.