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## LD 451

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### LD 451, An Act to Ensure Transparent and Accountable Temporary Nurse Agencies

- I am pleased to sponsor LD 451, An Act to Ensure Transparent and Accountable Temporary Nurse Agencies.
- Temporary Nurse Agencies, also known as Staffing Agencies, provide temporary health care workers (including but not limited to RNs, LPNs, CNAs) to health care facilities in need of staffing support.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, many health care organizations in Maine faced critical staffing shortages and turned to agency staffing to fill those gaps.
- The staffing shortages across multiple health care sectors continues and reliance on agency staff to fill positions has grown, often at significantly elevated rates for these temporary workers. However, the exact impact, including the serious financial effects, are largely unknown. The goal of this legislation is to create greater financial transparency and accountability.
- Presently temporary staffing agencies do not have to update their contact information in a timely manner if there is a change of ownership, operation or location. LD 451 would change that and create greater transparency of ownership. It would also raise the annual registration fee to \$1000.
- LD 451 would require that temporary nurse agencies ensure that each employee it refers to a health care provider for a position meets the state and federal qualification requirements for that position, and maintains records to that effect.
- This bill would also prohibit agencies from requiring employees to recruit other employees to come to

work for the temporary agency as a condition of maintaining their employment.

- And finally, this bill would require temporary nurse agencies to submit an annual report to the Department of Health and Human Services, which is then required to submit a summary report to this Committee- the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than December 6, 2023.
- Simply put, LD 451 creates greater transparency and accountability for temporary staffing agencies. These agencies comprise a significant and growing portion of our general fund tax payer dollars used to fund health care in Maine. As the stewards of those funds it is incumbent on us to have a clear understanding of how agencies are using those public dollars. For this reason I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

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