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Commissioner



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March 16, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Chair
Representative Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: LD 451 *An Act to Ensure Transparent and Accountable Temporary Nurse Agencies*

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Department is neither for nor against this proposed bill and we offer the following information to assist you in your hearing.

This bill would require temporary nurse agencies operating in Maine to renew their registration annually and to update their registration if the agency changes ownership, operation or location. The bill would also meaningfully increase the cost of that annual registration from \$25.00 to \$1,000.00 and would require temporary nurse agencies to submit an annual report to the Department of Health and Human Services, which would then be required to submit a summary report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.¹


Maine has a relatively minimal requirements in this area and the Division currently manages this registration process. Presently, the initial and annual registration fee is set in the statute at \$25.00, and the data we receive is quite limited. This bill would require that the Division provide significantly more oversight in this area, and would require additional work for the Department, in capturing and compiling data, and producing reports. However, we would gain vital additional insight to temporary nursing agencies and their impact on Maine's health services and health workforce.

Right now, there are 232 temporary nursing agencies currently registered who are Maine-based companies and 197 of these agencies are based outside our state. They range from small to large entities – but again, we have very little information about the size and scope. The names and contact information for these agencies are publicly available on our website at <https://gateway.maine.gov/dhhs-apps/aspen/>.

¹ The bill would also require that temporary nurse agencies ensure that each employee it refers to a provider for a position meets the state and federal qualification requirements for that position and maintain records to that effect; it would prohibit agencies from requiring employees to recruit other employees.

As you can see, there is very little information available to us to share with you on temporary nursing agencies from a registration perspective. We hope you found this limited information helpful, and we would be happy to answer any questions you have or work towards finding additional data. I or someone else from the Division will attend your work session if needed.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Bill Montejo, Director
Division of Licensing and Certification