An Act Supporting the Rural Health Care Workforce in Maine

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

Presented by Representative OSHER of Orono.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, PERRY of Calais,
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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

§1728. Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund

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

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

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

A. Expanding rural longitudinal primary care clinical rotations for 3rd-year medical students to support long-term professional practice in the rural part of the State;
B. Expanding rural primary care clinical rotations for 4th-year medical students to support long-term professional practice in the rural part of the State;
C. Expanding rural primary care clinical residency placements in the State; and
D. Supporting the long-term sustainability of rural clinical preceptorship programs to provide support for students in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs.

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

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund N424

| Initiative: Provides funding for the Maine Rural Health Care Education Workforce Fund. |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND                               | 2023-24         | 2024-25         |
| All Other                                  | $500,000        | $500,000        |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL                         | $500,000        | $500,000        |

SUMMARY

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