



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 1597

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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 **Preamble.** Two thirds of both Houses of the Legislature deeming it necessary in  
2 accordance with the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14 to authorize the issuance  
3 of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine to provide funds as described in this Act,

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

5 **PART A**

6 **Sec. A-1. Authorization of bonds.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the  
7 direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an  
8 amount not exceeding \$11,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Part. The  
9 bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a  
10 period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

11 **Sec. A-2. Records of bonds issued; Treasurer of State.** The Treasurer of State  
12 shall ensure that an account of each bond is kept showing the number of the bond, the name  
13 of the successful bidder to whom sold, the amount received for the bond, the date of sale  
14 and the date when payable.

15 **Sec. A-3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds appropriated.** The Treasurer of  
16 State may negotiate the sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no bond may  
17 be loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the  
18 bonds, which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid by the Treasurer of State  
19 upon warrants drawn by the State Controller, are appropriated solely for the purposes set  
20 forth in this Part. Any unencumbered balances remaining at the completion of the project  
21 in this Part lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of  
22 general obligation bonds.

23 **Sec. A-4. Interest and debt retirement.** The Treasurer of State shall pay interest  
24 due or accruing on any bonds issued under this Part and all sums coming due for payment  
25 of bonds at maturity.

26 **Sec. A-5. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue.**  
27 The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Part must be expended as  
28 designated in the following schedule under the direction and supervision of the agencies  
29 and entities set forth in this section.

30 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

31 Provides funds to award grants to the University of New England Institute for  
32 Interprofessional Education and Practice to improve and expand collaborative team-  
33 based education of health care workers, including training in the use of telehealth and  
34 other technologies, to increase access to high-quality health care and to upgrade the  
35 capacity of federally qualified health centers and other community-based health care  
36 clinics and hospitals throughout the State in order to facilitate educational and clinical  
37 links to the University of New England Institute for Interprofessional Education and  
38 Practice and to enhance and expand their capacity to provide access to high-quality  
39 health care.

40 Total \$11,000,000

41



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.