



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 377

S.P. 133

In Senate, February 4, 2025

**An Act to Establish a University of Maine Medical School and to
Dedicate Funds from Raising the Cigarette Tax to the School**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative: RANA of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §4365**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 218, §44 and c. 457, Pt. AA,
3 §1 and affected by §8, is further amended to read:

4 **§4365. Rate of tax**

5 A tax is imposed on all cigarettes imported into this State or held in this State by any
6 person for sale at the rate of ~~100~~ 150 mills for each cigarette. Payment of the tax is
7 evidenced by the affixing of stamps to the packages containing the cigarettes.

8 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §4381** is amended to read:

9 **§4381. Tax credited to General Fund; University of Maine college of medicine**

10 The revenue derived from the tax imposed by this chapter ~~shall~~ must be credited ~~to the~~
11 ~~General Fund of the State.~~ as follows:

12 **1. University of Maine System.** Thirty-three percent of the revenue must be credited
13 to the University of Maine System for the location, construction, equipping and operation
14 of a college of medicine authorized pursuant to Private and Special Law 1865, chapter 532,
15 section 9-A; and

16 **2. General Fund.** Sixty-seven percent of the revenue must be credited to the General
17 Fund.

18 **Sec. 3. University of Maine System; college of medicine.** The University of
19 Maine System shall locate, construct, equip and operate a college of medicine pursuant to
20 Private and Special Law 1865, chapter 532, section 9-A. The college of medicine must be
21 located in Penobscot County. The college of medicine must include, but is not limited to,
22 a rural health care course of study and clinic outreach to Aroostook County, Penobscot
23 County, Piscataquis County, Washington County, Waldo County, Hancock County and
24 Somerset County.

25 **Sec. 4. Effective date.** Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised
26 Statutes, Title 36, sections 4365 and 4381 take effect July 1, 2026.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires the University of Maine System to locate, construct, equip and
29 operate a college of medicine in Penobscot County. The college of medicine must include
30 a rural health care course of study and clinic outreach to Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis,
31 Washington, Waldo, Hancock and Somerset counties. The bill also increases the rate of
32 tax on cigarettes and credits that increase to the University of Maine System for the
33 location, construction, equipping and operation of a college of medicine. It also provides
34 an effective date of July 1, 2026 for the provisions regarding the increased tax and its use.