

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Date: 5/15/25

(Filing No. H-168)

Majority
JUDICIARY

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 480, L.D. 738, "An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer by Establishing a Law Office Study Program"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following:

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides funding for the development and administration of a law office study program as an alternative to qualify for admission to the bar of the State.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$200,000	\$200,000

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 05/08/25 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 738

LR 1633(02)

An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer by Establishing a Law Office Study Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)
Committee: Judiciary
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$200,000 per year to the Judicial Branch to be distributed to the Board of Bar Examiners and the Board of Overseers of the Bar to provide funding for staffing costs and related expenditures associated with establishing a law office study program as an alternative to qualify for admission to the bar of the State. A combination of funds generated by new or increased fees charged by the boards could potentially generate upwards of \$250,000, for example increasing the licensing fees by \$50. This appropriation is intended to supplement those potential funds. The Board of Bar Examiners recently updated their fees in March 2025 and the Board of Overseers of the Bar last updated their fees in 2021.