

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ROS

L.D. 1691

Date:

5/28/25 Majority

(Filing No. H-329)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1126, L.D. 1691, "An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas"

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

'Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Access to Justice Loan Program Revolving Fund N541

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize the expenditure of funds received for the Access to Justice Loan Program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

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)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 1691****LR 1844(02)****An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-325)****Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

Fiscal Note**Unfunded Loan Program - Finance Authority of Maine**

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes the Access to Justice Loan Program to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine to provide loans to eligible residents of the State who demonstrate an interest in or commitment to providing legal services in underserved areas of the State. No funding for the loan program is provided in the bill. This bill includes Other Special Revenue Funds base allocations of \$500 per year beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 to a newly created Access to Justice Loan Program Revolving Fund within the Finance Authority of Maine to authorize the expenditure of funds in the event monies are received from public or private sources to support the loan program.

This bill also requires the University of Maine System, to the extent that sufficient funds are available, to establish a rural practice track at the University of Maine School of Law. The University of Maine estimates the annual cost to support 6 first-year or 2nd-year eligible law school students to be approximately \$161,780 per year. The one-time cost to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and communications plan is estimated to be \$120,000. According to the University of Maine System, no funding is available for this program at this time.