

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 772

H. P. 577

House of Representatives, February 11, 1971

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Gill of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT to Provide Loans to Encourage the Practice of Family Medicine to Assist in Maintaining the Health of Maine Residents.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, c. 302-B, additional. Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 302-B, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 302-B

**LOANS FOR CANDIDATES FOR
PRACTICE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

§ 2241. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide loans for residents of the State who desire to practice the science of osteopathic medicine for the welfare and service of this State. The provision of financial assistance in securing such higher education is an important public purpose. Many qualified youth are deterred by financial considerations from securing such higher education with a consequent irreparable loss to the State in maintaining the health of Maine residents.

§ 2242. State Osteopathic Loan Fund

There is created a State Osteopathic Loan Fund which shall be used by the Commissioner of Education as a nonlapsing, revolving fund for carrying out this chapter. The fund shall initially be in the sum of \$60,000.

Moneys in the fund, not needed currently to meet the obligations of the commissioner under this chapter shall be deposited with the Treasurer of

State to the credit of the fund, or may be invested in such manner as is provided for by statute.

§ 2243. Eligibility for loans

An applicant shall be eligible for a loan under this chapter when the Commissioner of Education, after consultation with the executive committee of the Maine Osteopathic Association, finds:

1. Residency. That he must have been a resident of this State for not less than 3 years before the date of his application;
2. Qualifications. That he is attending or will immediately attend an osteopathic college or university approved by the American Osteopathic Association;
3. Financial resources. That his financial resources are such that, in the absence of a loan, he will be deterred by financial considerations from beginning or completing his education at an osteopathic college or university;
4. Return to Maine. That he show a genuine interest in returning to Maine to practice osteopathic medicine.

§ 2244. Repayment

Each student shall enter into an agreement with the Maine State Department of Education that after the completion of his internship or residency he will enter upon the practice of osteopathic medicine in this State and continue in such practice for a period of one year for each \$2,000 of loan granted and utilized. If a recipient of a loan provided herein fails to perform his agreement with the Department of Education for reasons other than death, he shall immediately be liable to the State for all loan payments he shall have received plus interest on each payment at the rate of 6% per year compounded semiannually. If a recipient of a loan provided for in this chapter practices osteopathic medicine in a community of Maine for only a part of his total compensatory practice agreed upon, he shall be liable to the State only for the amount granted him under such loan plus interest at the rate of 6% per year compounded semiannually reduced by a credit at a rate of \$2,000 plus interest thereon, per year for the time he shall have actually practiced in Maine.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Education for the establishment of the State Osteopathic Loan Fund the sum of \$60,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972. The breakdown shall be as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	1971-72
All Other	\$60,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

A shortage of physicians exists in Maine particularly of those in family practice and such shortage will aggravate unless encouragement is given to

the education of those qualified citizens likely to engage in family practice. To this end aid should be given Maine residents who wish to practice osteopathic medicine by providing loans for attendance at a school approved by the American Osteopathic Association.