

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1323**

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H. P. 1037

House of Representatives, March 21, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. LaPointe of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT Appropriating Funds for the Osteopathic Student Loan Fund.**

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services the sum of \$150,000 for the Osteopathic Student Loan Fund to be used in a revolving fund to provide loans for residents of the State who are enrolled in osteopathic medical colleges and evidence a desire to practice the science of osteopathic medicine for the welfare and service of this State. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Osteopathic Student Loan Fund		
All Other	\$65,000	\$85,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

A shortage of primary care physicians exists in Maine, particularly of those in the general practice of family medicine, and this shortage will grow worse unless encouragement is given to the education of those qualified citizens likely to engage in family practice.

The costs of professional education are at a level which often presents extreme economic hardship for students pursuing these studies. Graduates of

osteopathic colleges during the past decade have accounted for approximately 75% of the new physicians entering general practice in this State and the nation.

To continue this trend, loans have been made available to residents of the State by the Osteopathic Student Loan Fund. (P.L. 1971, c. 526 and P.L. 1973, c. 121) Several osteopathic medical students have contracted with the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services under the 2 previous appropriations. All of these persons are continuing their training as physicians. Some of them will need further financial assistance. Other qualified residents and students will need the assistance of this student loan fund.