

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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## Legislative Document

No. 1515

H. P. 1263

House of Representatives, April 11, 1977

On motion of Mr. Lynch of Livermore Falls, referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

Cosponsor: Mr. Wilfong of Stow.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Reduce the Funding Level of the University of Maine Law School, to Establish a Law School Loan Fund and to Require Part-time Programs to be Offered at the University of Maine Law School.**

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA c. 303-A is enacted to read:

### CHAPTER 303-A

### LEGAL EDUCATION FINANCING

§ 2261. University of Maine Law School budget

It is the intent of the Legislature, that no more than 25% of the budget for the University of Maine Law School be taken from the General Fund allocation to the University of Maine system in any fiscal year.

§ 2262. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following words shall have the following meanings.

1. Law school budget. "Law school budget" includes all expenses incident to operation of the law school, but not including the overhead of the law school and the costs of the law library.

2. Overhead items. "Overhead items" shall include the following: Equipment use charges; building use charges; operations and maintenance; and general maintenance.

### § 2263. Law School Loan Fund

1. Creation. There is hereby established a Law School Loan Fund, to provide low interest loans for Maine residents enrolled or accepted at the University of Maine Law School or at any American Bar Association accredited law school in the United States.

2. Eligibility for loans. An applicant shall be eligible for a loan under this chapter, when the Chancellor of the University of Maine finds:

A. That the applicant has been a resident of this State for a minimum of 3 years at any time prior to application;

B. That the applicant is attending or will immediately attend the University of Maine Law School or any law school in the United States accredited by the American Bar Association;

C. That the applicant's financial resources are such that, in the absence of a loan, the applicant will be deterred by financial considerations from beginning or completing his law school education; and

D. That the applicant shows a genuine interest in returning to Maine to practice law.

3. Amount. Loans shall be in an amount which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of attendance at the University of Maine Law School.

4. Repayment. Each recipient of a loan shall enter into an agreement with the University of Maine for repayment of the loan. All loans will be granted with a minimum interest rate not to exceed 5% to cover the administrative costs. All recipients of such loans shall begin repayment no later than 12 months after graduation or termination of studies from law school.

5. Rules and regulations. The Trustees of the University of Maine may make all the necessary rules and regulations for the operation of this section.

6. Fiscal. Money for the implementation of this section, shall be taken out of the money previously allocated to the University of Maine Law School, out of the University of Maine's budget, but no longer necessary due to the 25% budget allocation limit imposed by this chapter. Such allocation shall be set by the trustees of the university, but shall not be more than \$50,000 for any fiscal year.

### § 2264. Extension programs

It is the intent of the Legislature, that the University of Maine Law School offer extension programs for part-time students leading to a law degree and that the cost of any such courses or programs be included in the law school budget and be subsidized at the same rate as full-time students.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall become effective July 1, 1978.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to reduce the funding level of the University of Maine Law School, to establish a law school loan fund and to require part-

time programs to be offered at the University of Maine Law School. No additional money will be necessary for this bill. Money for the operations of the loan fund will be allocated from the savings incurred by the 25% limit on the General Fund allocation to the law school. Any remaining money shall revert to the general operating budget of the University of Maine.