

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2174

6
7 H.P. 1641

House of Representatives, March 5, 1984

8 Approved for introduction by the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint
9 Rule 26.

10 Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Higgins of Scarborough.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Davis of Monmouth, Representative
Thompson of So. Portland and Senator Gill of Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR
16

17 AN ACT to Initiate Programs to
18 Improve the Quality of Education in
19 Maine Schools.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4601, sub-§2-A is enacted to
24 read:

25 2-A. Science and mathematics. The following
26 courses shall be required for graduation from a sec-
27 ondary school according to the following schedule:

28 A. Graduation on or after June 1, 1986, one year
29 of mathematics and one year of science; and

30 B. Graduation on or after June 1, 1988, 2 years
31 of mathematics and 2 years of science.

32 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA c. 325 is enacted to read:

- 1 2. Student performance. Define student perform-
2 ance expectations and desired competencies;
- 3 3. Achievement testing. Implement an expanded
4 student achievement testing program that is compati-
5 ble with the Maine Assessment of Educational
6 Progress;
- 7 4. Course requirements. Increase course require-
8 ments in basic areas of study, including English,
9 mathematics, science and social studies;
- 10 5. Computer education. Design and implement a
11 computer education program;
- 12 6. Student contact days. Increase the amount of
13 instructional or class time within the school day by
14 increasing the number of student contact days in the
15 school year;
- 16 7. Outstanding teachers. Employ outstanding
17 teachers over a longer contract year, using salary
18 supplements, to profit from their talents in areas
19 including curriculum development or remedial and en-
20 richment program teaching;
- 21 8. Compensation plan. Design and implement a
22 performance-based pay compensation plan to recognize
23 and reward outstanding teachers;
- 24 9. Teacher proficiency. Implement a system to
25 measure teacher knowledge and skills in concert with
26 a plan for improving teacher proficiency; or
- 27 10. Career ladder. Design and implement a teacher
28 career ladder with comparable salary scales.
- 29 §9704. Project approval
- 30 A school unit wishing to develop an excellence
31 project shall submit a plan or proposal to the com-
32 missioner in accordance with rules developed by the
33 State Board of Education. Funding for projects
34 shall be awarded on a competitive basis. Projects
35 shall be funded for a 2-year period. The commis-
36 ioner, in consultation with the board, shall make the
37 final determination of approval. In determining the

1 approval and allocation of funding under this chap-
2 ter, the commissioner and board shall make every ef-
3 fort to include the broadest spectrum of elementary
4 and secondary school curriculum, including, but not
5 limited to, programs for college-bound students, vo-
6 catiional education students, students pursuing a gen-
7 eral course of study and those preparing for business
8 related occupations.

9 §9705. Funding

10 The State shall allocate funds to units that sub-
11 mit excellence projects that are approved according
12 to the requirements of this chapter. The state's
13 share of local costs of implementation shall be no
14 less than 25%. The state-local cost sharing formula
15 shall be as defined pursuant to section 15503.

16 §9706. Monitoring and evaluation

17 The department shall monitor approved projects
18 during the period of implementation. The unit receiv-
19 ing state funds for an excellence project shall pro-
20 vide for an ongoing evaluation of the project and
21 shall submit to the department any data or informa-
22 tion as may be required by the department to ade-
23 quately evaluate the program. The furnishing of this
24 information shall be a condition of funding approval.

25 If, at the end of the grant period, the project
26 has been evaluated as effective by the department,
27 the allowable costs may be added to the unit's
28 subsidized costs pursuant to chapter 605.

29 §9707. Rules

30 The commissioner may make and promulgate rules as
31 necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

32 §9708. Sunset

33 This chapter is repealed on July 1, 1987.

34 Sec. 3. 20-A M RSA c. 429 is enacted to read:

35 CHAPTER 429

1 POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF TEACHING

2 §12601. Purpose

3 1. Legislative intent. It is the intent of this
4 legislation to encourage the state's most promising
5 students to enter the teaching profession by offering
6 financial incentives to those students in
7 post-secondary educational institutions. In order to
8 carry out the purpose of this chapter, a revolving
9 loan account is established for the benefit of those
10 students who intend to enter the profession of teach-
11 ing within the State. This approach places the State
12 in a position to more effectively compete with other
13 potentially more lucrative professions.

14 2. Responsibility for program. It is the intent
15 of the Legislature, consistent with the purposes of
16 this chapter, that the Commissioner of Educational
17 and Cultural Services shall administer the loan pro-
18 gram and develop a plan which assures, to the extent
19 practicable, that any student receiving loan money
20 under this chapter practice his teaching profession
21 in a publicly funded elementary or secondary school
22 within the State.

23 §12602. Fund established

24 There is established a State Education Profession
25 Loan Fund, referred to in this chapter as the "fund."

26 §12603. Definitions

27 As used in this chapter, unless the context oth-
28 erwise indicates, the following terms have the fol-
29 lowing meanings.

30 1. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commis-
31 sioner of Educational and Cultural Services.

32 2. Department. "Department" means the Department
33 of Educational and Cultural Services.

34 3. Eligible student. "Eligible student" means a
35 student who:

36 A. Was graduated from an accredited secondary
37 school in the State;

1 B. Is enrolled in an institution of higher educa-
2 tion and who:

3 (1) Is entering his junior or senior year of
4 study at that institution; and

5 (2) Is in the top 20% of his class at that
6 institution; and

7 C. Intends to teach in a publicly funded elemen-
8 tary or secondary school in the State.

9 4. Institution of higher education. "Institution
10 of higher education" means a post-secondary
11 intitution of learning which is:

12 A. Approved or accredited by the department of
13 education of the state in which it is located; or

14 B. Approved or accredited by a regional associa-
15 tion of post-secondary schools and colleges.

16 5. Loan. "Loan" means funding applied for or re-
17 ceived from the fund established pursuant to this
18 chapter.

19 §12604. Eligibility

20 The commissioner shall develop rules, procedures,
21 guidelines, criteria and forms necessary to determine
22 who shall be considered an eligible student. The com-
23 missioner shall make the final determination who
24 shall receive loans from the fund.

25 If the commissioner determines that there are
26 academic areas of study where there is a shortage of
27 qualified teachers, he may give priority to students
28 intending to enter these fields.

29 §12605. Agreement for eligible students

30 Any loan issued pursuant to this chapter shall be
31 subject to an agreement.

32 1. Agreement. Any eligible student who the com-
33 missioner has determined may receive a loan from the
34 fund shall as a condition precedent to receiving that

1 loan enter into an agreement with the State under
2 which the student shall agree:

3 A. To use the loan to pay tuition to the institu-
4 tion of higher education; and

5 B. Upon concluding education, to pay to the State
6 an amount equal to the amount of the loan.

7 (1) This amount shall be payable at current
8 annual interest rates in not more than 3 an-
9 ual equal installments.

10 (2) These installments shall begin upon con-
11 clusion of the student's education under
12 rules promulgated by the commissioner.

13 2. Forgiveness of indebtedness. The agreement
14 shall provide that 1/3 of the indebtedness shall be
15 forgiven for each year in which the student practices
16 in the teaching profession in a publicly funded ele-
17 mentary or secondary school within the State.

18 3. Default. The agreement shall provide that if
19 the student does not practice, or ceases to practice,
20 in the teaching profession in a publicly funded ele-
21 mentary or secondary school within the State, the
22 commissioner may require that the amount of outstand-
23 ing indebtedness shall be paid to the State within 9
24 months.

25 §12606. Loans

26 Any loan to an eligible student who the commis-
27 sioner has determined shall receive a loan pursuant
28 to section 12604 shall be equal to the amount of the
29 tuition to the institution of higher education or
30 \$2,500 a year, whichever is less.

31 §12607. Practice in Maine

32 The commissioner shall develop a plan which as-
33 pires, to the extent practicable, that eligible stu-
34 dents receiving loans from the fund practice their
35 teaching profession in publicly funded elementary or
36 secondary schools within the State. This plan shall
37 be completed and presented to the Governor and Legis-

1 lature before February 1st each year. This plan
2 shall include, but is not limited to, recommendations
3 for the future need of this loan program and an as-
4 essment of the impact of the program in public edu-
5 cation in the State.

6 §12608. Nonlapsing fund

7 Any unexpended money and accumulated interest in
8 the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse,
9 but shall be carried forward to the following year,
10 to be expended by the department in furtherance of
11 the purposes of this chapter. Money returned to the
12 State as repayment to the State shall be deposited in
13 a revolving account, to be expended for the issuance
14 of eligible student loans.

15 §12609. Rules

16 The commissioner may make and promulgate rules
17 necessary for the furtherance of the purposes of this
18 chapter.

19 §12610. Annual review

20 The joint standing committees of the Legislature
21 having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial
22 affairs and education shall annually review the loan
23 program established under this chapter.

24 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA c. 513 is enacted to read:

25 CHAPTER 513

26 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

27 §14001. Purpose

28 The Legislature finds that excellence in educa-
29 tion is of paramount importance to the State and that
30 awards to exemplary educators will serve as an incen-
31 tive to others in education to achieve excellence in
32 the teaching profession. The purpose of this chapter
33 is to award those outstanding individuals in the edu-
34 cational systems throughout the State for their supe-
35 rior performance.

1 §14002. Award

2 Each recipient of an Annual Award for Outstanding
3 Professional Performance in Education, as established
4 pursuant to this chapter, shall receive \$1,000. Each
5 teacher receiving this award shall also receive 3
6 days of release time to be used for working on a pub-
7 lication or for acting as a resource teacher, a con-
8 sultant or an in-service workshop leader, speaker or
9 coordinator. Recipients shall be selected in accord-
10 ance with section 14003.

11 §14003. Selection

12 The selection for recipients of the Annual Award
13 for Outstanding Professional Performance in Education
14 shall be made as follows.

15 1. Number. The awards shall be given annually to
16 2 teachers from each Regional Superintendent Associa-
17 tion District within the State.

18 2. Committee. The president of each superintend-
19 ent district, or his designee, shall appoint annually
20 at least 7 members to serve on a committee whose duty
21 shall be to select the 2 award recipients from that
22 district. There shall be at least one member on the
23 committee from each of the following groups within
24 the district:

25 A. Teachers;

26 B. Students;

27 C. Parents of students;

28 D. School administrators;

29 E. School board members;

30 F. Representatives from the business community;
31 and

32 G. Representatives from the professional communi-
33 ty.

1 the most creative educationally sound proposals will
2 be reimbursed for their costs under the existing
3 state formula with a minimum state grant of 25%.
4 Once these projects have proven to be effective and
5 to have significant long-term value, they may then be
6 considered for continued state funding under the cur-
7 rent subsidy law.

8 The purpose of section 3 is to establish a state
9 supported revolving loan account to provide financial
10 assistance to those talented and promising
11 post-secondary students who express an intent to en-
12 ter the teaching profession and teach in publicly
13 funded elementary and secondary schools within the
14 State. Loans of up to \$2,500 per year will be granted
15 to college juniors and seniors who qualify for this
16 program. Upon graduation, 1/3 of the amount of the
17 loan will be forgiven for each year the student
18 teaches in Maine.

19 In addition this bill allows the commissioner to
20 direct financial assistance into a particular field
21 of study if there appears to be a shortage of teach-
22 ers in a specific curriculum.

23 Section 4 of the bill establishes an Annual Award
24 for Outstanding Professional Performance in Education
25 and the mechanism for determining the recipients of
26 the awards. The purposes of the awards are to recog-
27 nize and promote excellence in the profession of
28 teaching.

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