

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (After Deadline)
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 1143

7
8 S.P. 413

In Senate, March 27, 1985

9 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
10 pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

11 Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent down for concurrence and
ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Gauvreau of Androscoggin.

12 Cosponsored by Representative Paradis of Augusta, Representative
Brodeur of Auburn and Representative Handy of Lewiston.

13 STATE OF MAINE
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
17

18 AN ACT Relating to the Blaine House Scholars
19 Program.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSa §12507, first ¶, as enacted by
24 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. F, §§1 and 2, is amended to
25 read:

26 Each recipient of a loan may cancel the total
27 amount of the loan by completing 4 years of return
28 service in the public schools or private schools ap-
29 proved for tuition purposes in the State or parochial
30 schools approved by the commissioner. The repayment
31 period shall be 2 years if return service is per-
32 formed in underserved subject areas or in geographi-
33 cally isolated areas as determined by the commis-
34 sioner. Return service may also cancel the loan on a
35 proportional basis, reducing the total amount of the
36 debt by 25% for each year of return service. Return

1 service for this purpose shall be performed within 5
2 years of graduation from the institution of higher
3 education. Failure to fulfill the return service
4 option will necessitate repayment to the State as
5 follows.

6 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12508, first ¶, as enacted by
7 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. F, §§1 and 2, is amended to
8 read:

9 Each recipient of a loan designated for teachers
10 pursuing an advanced degree or continued study may
11 cancel the total amount of the loan by completing 2
12 years of return service in the public schools or pri-
13 vate schools approved for tuition purposes in the
14 State or parochial schools approved by the
15 commissioner. The repayment period shall be one year
16 if return service is performed in underserved subject
17 areas or in geographically isolated areas as deter-
18 mined by the commissioner. Return service may also
19 cancel the loan on a proportional basis, reducing the
20 total amount of the debt by 50% for each year of re-
21 turn service. Return service for this purpose shall
22 be performed within 3 years of graduation from the
23 institution of higher education or completion of the
24 course or courses for which the funds were given.
25 Failure to fulfill the return service option will ne-
26 cessitate repayment to the State as follows.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The Blaine House Scholars Program was enacted as
3 part of the Education Reform Act of 1984 in order to
4 encourage individuals to enter the teaching profes-
5 sion, pursue advanced educational training or pursue
6 training in nonteaching careers. Eligible teacher
7 students are entitled to go to \$6,000 in interest
8 free loans over a 4-year period. Loan recipients may
9 cancel the total amount of the loan by completing 4
10 years of return service in the public schools or pri-
11 vate schools approved for tuition purposes in the
12 State. Recipients of loans designated for teachers
13 pursuing an advanced degree or continued study may
14 cancel the total amount of the loan by completing 2
15 years of return service in the public schools or pri-
16 vate schools approved for tuition purposes in the
17 State. No provision for loan forgiveness is made for
18 these teachers who elect to teach in the parochial
19 school system.

20 This bill will accord to parochial school teach-
21 ers the same opportunity to secure forgiveness to
22 their school loans as is now provided to teachers in
23 public schools or private schools approved for tui-
24 tion purposes. Parochial schools provide an educa-
25 tional opportunity for hundreds of elementary and
26 secondary students. Frequently parochial school
27 teachers receive lower wages and benefits than their
28 counterparts in the public school system. The need
29 for quality exists as strongly in the parochial
30 school system as it does in the public sector. This
31 bill encourages bright individuals to enter the
32 teaching profession without regard to the religious
33 orientation of the teaching unit.

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