

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1090

H.P. 816 House of Representatives, April 2, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative BOUTILIER of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives KILKELLY of Wiscasset,
CROWLEY of Stockton Springs and Senator ESTES of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Expand the Blaine House Scholars
Program.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§§5 to 7, as en-
acted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. F, §§1 and 2, are re-
pealed and the following enacted in their place:

5. Preservice. "Preservice" means preparation
to enter into a profession through a baccalaureate
program.

6. Return service. "Return service" means pro-
fessional service in this State in an underserved ar-
ea.

1 7. Underserved areas. "Underserved areas" means
2 those professions for which there is an insufficient
3 supply of qualified candidates, as may be determined
4 under section 12511.

5 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12502, as enacted by PL 1983,
6 c. 859, Pt. F, §§1 and 2, is amended to read:

7 §12502. Blaine House Scholars and Financial Assist-
8 ance Program

9 There is established the Blaine House Scholars
10 and Financial Assistance Program to recognize Maine
11 high school graduates who attain high academic
12 achievement, and to provide financial assistance for
13 post-secondary education of high school students and
14 advanced degree or continued study by teachers in
15 certain underserved areas. The program shall recog-
16 nize outstanding high school students as described in
17 section 12503 and disburse interest free loans as de-
18 scribed in section 12504. The program shall be ad-
19 ministered by the commissioner.

20 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12504, first ¶, as enacted by
21 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. F, §§1 and 2, is amended to
22 read:

23 Funds available under this chapter shall be allo-
24 cated as follows: Fifty percent for Blaine House
25 scholars entering preservice; 25% teachers
26 professionals engaged in graduate continuing educa-
27 tion and 25% to Blaine House scholars not entering
28 preservice.

29 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12505, as enacted by PL 1983,
30 c. 859, Pt. F, §§1 and 2, is amended to read:

31 §12505. Eligibility requirements

32 1. Eligibility for post-secondary education
33 loans. Post-secondary education loans shall be given
34 only to a high school graduate who is a resident of
35 the State, who has been recognized as a Blaine House
36 scholar and who has met other eligibility criteria
37 established by rule of the commissioner. Preference
38 shall be given to students enrolled in a program
39 which has been determined to be an underserved
40 subject area.

1 2. Eligibility for graduate study or continuing
2 education loans. Graduate study or continuing educa-
3 tion loans shall be given only to a teacher-in-a
4 Maine-school. Preference shall be given to teachers
5 of subjects which have been determined to be
6 underserved professional in an underserved area in
7 the State.

8 Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12507, first ¶, as enacted by
9 PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. F, §§1 and 2, is amended to
10 read:

11 Each recipient of a loan may cancel the total
12 amount of the loan by completing 4 years of return
13 ~~services in the public schools or private schools ap-~~
14 ~~proved for tuition purposes in the State in a profes-~~
15 ~~sional field which is determined to be underserved~~
16 pursuant to section 12511. The repayment period
17 shall be 2 years if return service is performed in
18 ~~underserved subject areas or~~ in geographically iso-
19 lated areas as determined by the commissioner. Re-
20 turn service may also cancel the loan on a propor-
21 tional basis, reducing the total amount of the debt
22 by 25% for each year of return service. Return ser-
23 vice for this purpose shall be performed within 5
24 years of graduation from the institution of higher
25 education. Failure to fulfill the return service op-
26 tion will necessitate repayment to the State as fol-
27 lows.

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

30 §12508. Repayment and return service provisions -
31 loans for teachers

32 Each recipient of a loan ~~designated for teachers~~
33 pursuing in order to pursue an advanced degree or
34 continued study may cancel the total amount of the
35 loan by completing 2 years of return service in the
36 public schools or private schools approved for tui-
37 tion purposes in the State in the appropriate profes-
38 sional field. The repayment period shall be one year
39 if return service is performed in ~~underserved subject~~
40 ~~areas or~~ in geographically isolated areas as deter-
41 mined by the commissioner. Return service may also
42 cancel the loan on a proportional basis, reducing the

1 total amount of the debt by 50% for each year of re-
2 turn service. Return service for this purpose shall
3 be performed within 3 years of graduation from the
4 institution of higher education or completion of the
5 course or courses for which the funds were given.
6 Failure to fulfill the return service option will ne-
7 cessitate repayment to the State as follows.

8 1. Debt calculation. The debt shall include to-
9 tal amount of the loan less the amount, if any, which
10 has been canceled by return service.

11 2. Time for repayment. The total debt shall be
12 repaid to the State within 3 years of graduation from
13 the institution of higher education or courses for
14 which the funds were given according to a schedule
15 established by the commissioner. Due dates for re-
16 payments shall be set by the commissioner.

17 Sec. 7. 20-A MRS §12511 is enacted to read:

18 §12511. Determination of underserved areas

19 1. Determination of underserved areas. The com-
20 missioner shall make a determination of underserved
21 areas by considering the following information:

22 A. Statistics on current employment patterns
23 provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, de-
24 tailing the level of qualified applicants availa-
25 ble; and

26 B. Numbers of students currently enrolled in
27 programs leading to degrees in given professions.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The objective of this bill is to increase the
3 pool of qualified applicants in underserved profes-
4 sional areas. The bill accomplishes this objective
5 by broadening the focus of the Blaine House Scholar-
6 ship from students who will become teachers to stu-
7 dents who will serve in an underserved area. The
8 underserved area will be determined jointly by the
9 Department of Educational and Cultural Services and
10 the Bureau of Labor Statistics; together, these 2
11 agencies will pinpoint various employment areas which
12 have an inadequate applicant pool. Recipients of the
13 scholarship will then be chosen based on their choice
14 of educational field, and can work off their loan ob-
15 ligation through employment in the appropriate field.
16 By expanding the uses of the money in the scholarship
17 fund, this bill will enhance the opportunity of stu-
18 dents to fulfill a vital and necessary economic role
19 in this State's future.

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