

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

C  
O  
M  
M  
I  
T  
T  
E  
E  
  
A  
M  
E  
N  
D  
M  
E  
N  
T

L.D. 196

(Filing No. H- 75 )

2  
4  
6  
8  
10  
12  
14  
16  
18  
20  
22  
24  
26  
28  
30  
32  
34  
36  
38  
40  
42  
44  
46

STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
115TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 136, L.D. 196, Bill, "An Act to Expand the Blaine House Scholars Program to Assist in Teacher Certification"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1989, c. 911, §4, is further amended to read:

1. **Academic achievement.** "Academic achievement" means graduation in the top 1/2 of the class for graduating high school seniors, or earning a grade point average of 3.0 or more, based on a 4.0 grade point system, or the equivalent, for currently enrolled college students and all other postsecondary applicants. Eligibility for applicants not currently enrolled must be based upon their most recent cumulative grade point average.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. Students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification. "Students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification" means students who have earned a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent and are pursuing a program of studies leading to certification as a teacher.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12502, as amended by PL 1989, c. 698, §33 and affected by §§76 and 77 and amended by c. 911, §7, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§12502. Blaine House Scholars and Financial Assistance Program

2 There is established the Blaine House Scholars and Financial  
3 Assistance Program to recognize graduates from Maine high  
4 schools, or the equivalent, who attain high academic achievement,  
5 and to provide financial assistance for postsecondary education  
6 of graduating high school seniors and college students and  
7 advanced degree or continued study by teachers. The program must  
8 recognize outstanding graduating high school seniors, college  
9 students and students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher  
10 certification as described in section 12503 and disburse  
11 interest-free loans as described in section 12504. The chief  
12 executive officer shall administer the program.

13 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12503, first ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c.**  
14 **698, §34 and affected by §76, is further amended to read:**

15 Each year graduating high school seniors and college  
16 students and students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher  
17 certification who show evidence of academic achievement shall  
18 must be considered for recognition as Blaine House scholars.  
19 Nominations and applications must be submitted to the chief  
20 executive officer at a time and in a format to be determined by  
21 rule of the chief executive officer.

22 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12504, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt.**  
23 **F, §§1 and 2, is amended to read:**

24 **§12504. Allocation of funds**

25 Funds available under this chapter shall must be allocated  
26 as follows: Fifty-percent up to 50% for Blaine House scholars  
27 entering preservice; up to 25% for teachers engaged in graduate  
28 study or continuing education and; up to 25% for Blaine House  
29 scholars not entering preservice; and up to 15% for Blaine House  
30 scholars who are students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher  
31 certification.

32 Loans of up to \$1,500 per academic year or \$6,000 total may  
33 be made to eligible individuals. Individuals who have received a  
34 Blaine House scholars loan as an undergraduate student may also  
35 receive a loan for students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher  
36 certification or a loan for teachers engaged in graduate  
37 education or continuing education. In no event may an individual  
38 receive more than \$12,000 in total. Loans shall-be are for one  
39 academic year and shall-be are automatically renewed if the  
40 recipient maintains a grade point average of 2.5 based on a 4.0  
41 grade point system.

42 An eligible individual who has received a loan as a student  
43 pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification may subsequently  
44 receive a loan as a teacher engaged in graduate study or  
45 continuing education, including undergraduate courses. However,  
46 in no event may an individual receive Blaine House loans totaling

2 more than \$6,000 for students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher  
3 certification and teachers engaged in graduate education or  
4 continuing education.

5 Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §12505, as amended by PL 1989, c. 698, §35  
6 and affected by §76, is further amended to read:

7 **§12505. Eligibility requirements**

8  
9 1. **Eligibility for postsecondary education loans.** A  
10 ~~post-secondary~~ postsecondary education loan must ~~may~~ be given  
11 only to a high school graduate who is a resident of the State,  
12 who has been recognized as a Blaine House scholar and who has met  
13 other eligibility criteria established by rule of the authority.  
14 Preference must be given to students enrolled in a program which  
15 has been determined to be an underserved subject area.

16  
17 2. **Eligibility for graduate study or continuing education**  
18 **loans.** A graduate study or continuing education loan must ~~may~~ be  
19 given only to a teacher in a Maine school who has met other  
20 eligibility criteria established by rule of the chief executive  
21 officer. Preference must be given to teachers of subjects  
22 determined to be underserved.

23  
24 3. Eligibility for postbaccalaureate teacher  
25 certification. A loan to a student pursuing postbaccalaureate  
26 teacher certification may be given only to a resident of the  
27 State who has shown academic achievement, who has a baccalaureate  
28 degree, who is not eligible for a loan for graduate study or  
29 continuing education pursuant to subsection 2, and who has met  
30 other eligibility criteria established by rule of the authority.

31  
32 Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §12508, as amended by PL 1989, c. 698, §§40  
33 and 41 and affected by §76, is further amended to read:

34  
35 **§12508. Repayment and return service provisions - loans for**  
36 **teachers and postbaccalaureate teacher certification**

37  
38 Each recipient of a loan designated for teachers pursuing an  
39 ~~advanced-degree-or-continued-study~~ graduate study or continuing  
40 education or for students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher  
41 certification may cancel the total amount of the loan by  
42 completing 2 years of return service in the public schools or  
43 private schools approved for tuition purposes in the State. The  
44 repayment period ~~shall-be~~ is one year if return service is  
45 performed in underserved subject areas or in geographically  
46 isolated areas as determined by the commissioner. Return service  
47 may also cancel the loan on a proportional basis, reducing the  
48 total amount of the debt by 50% for each year of return service.  
49 Return service for this purpose shall ~~must~~ be performed within 3  
50 years of graduation from the institution of higher education or  
51 completion of the course or courses for which the funds were  
52

C  
O  
M  
M  
I  
T  
T  
E  
E  
  
A  
M  
E  
N  
D  
M  
E  
N  
T

2 given. Failure to fulfill the return service option will  
necessitate repayment to the authority as follows.

4 1. Debt calculation. The debt shall must include total  
amount of the loan less the amount, if any, which that has been  
6 canceled by return service.

8 2. Time for repayment. The total debt must be repaid to  
the authority within 3 years of graduation from the institution  
10 of higher education or courses for which the funds were given  
according to a schedule established by the chief executive  
12 officer or within 3 years of repayment of any other loans made  
pursuant to this chapter. Due dates for repayments are set by  
14 the chief executive officer. A repayment schedule including due  
16 dates must be set by the chief executive officer.

18 FISCAL NOTE

20 This bill expands the number of eligible applicants for the  
Blaine House Scholars Program. General Fund appropriations to  
22 the Finance Authority of Maine would be required in order to  
serve both the new category of eligible applicants and the  
24 current number of students being served.'

26 STATEMENT OF FACT

28 This amendment fully incorporates into the Blaine House  
30 Scholars Program the new loan category of loans to students  
pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification created by the  
32 bill. The amendment defines those individuals who are eligible  
for loans under the new category and establishes the relationship  
34 between loans in the new category to other loans provided by the  
Blaine House Scholars Program. The amendment also establishes a  
36 flexible allocation of funds between the different types of  
Blaine House Scholars Program loans available.

38 The amendment also adds a fiscal note.

Reported by the Committee on Education  
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the  
House  
(4/4/91) (Filing No. H-75)