

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 196

H.P. 136

House of Representatives, January 30, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HANDY of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representative CROWLEY of Stockton Springs, Representative LEMKE of Westbrook and Senator ESTES of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Expand the Blaine House Scholars Program to Assist in
Teacher Certification.



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

2
4 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12502, as amended by PL 1989, c. 698, §33
and affected by §§76 and 77 and as amended by c. 911, §7, is
6 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

8 §12502. Blaine House Scholars and Financial Assistance Program

10 There is established the Blaine House Scholars and Financial
12 Assistance Program to recognize graduates from Maine high
14 schools, or the equivalent, who attain high academic achievement,
16 and to provide financial assistance for postsecondary education
18 of graduating high school seniors and college students, advanced
20 degree or continued study programs for teachers and teacher
22 certification programs for postbaccalaureate students. The
24 program must recognize outstanding graduating high school seniors
26 and college students as described in section 12503 and disburse
28 interest-free loans as described in section 12504. The chief
30 executive officer shall administer the program.

32 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12505, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

34 3. Eligibility for postbaccalaureate teacher
36 certification. A postbaccalaureate teacher certification loan
38 must be given to a resident of the State who has a baccalaureate
40 degree and who has met other eligibility criteria established by
42 rule of the authority.

44 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12508, as amended by PL 1989, c. 698, §§40
46 and 41, is further amended to read:

48 §12508. Repayment and return service provisions - loans for
50 teachers and postbaccalaureate teacher certification

Each recipient of a loan designated for teachers pursuing an
advanced degree or continued study or students pursuing
postbaccalaureate teacher certification may cancel the total
amount of the loan by completing 2 years of return service in the
public schools or private schools approved for tuition purposes
in the State. The repayment period ~~shall be~~ is one year if
return service is performed in underserved subject areas or in
geographically isolated areas as determined by the commissioner.
Return service may also cancel the loan on a proportional basis,
reducing the total amount of the debt by 50% for each year of
return service. Return service for this purpose shall must be
performed within 3 years of graduation from the institution of
higher education or completion of the course or courses for which
the funds were given. Failure to fulfill the return service
option will necessitate repayment to the authority as follows.

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

2. **Time for repayment.** The total debt must be repaid to the authority within 3 years of graduation from the institution of higher education or courses for which the funds were given according to a schedule established by the chief executive officer. Due dates for repayments are set by the chief executive officer.

Sec. 4. Allocation of funds. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12504, up to 15% of the funds available under Title 20-A, chapter 428, may be allocated to students in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification program for fiscal year 1991-92 and fiscal year 1992-93. By January 1, 1992, the Finance Authority of Maine shall submit recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education to ensure appropriate allocation of funds among eligible loan recipients.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill expands the Blaine House Scholars Program to allow loans to be awarded to students in postbaccalaureate teacher certification programs. Under this bill, the terms of repayment of the loans would be the same as currently exist for teachers pursuing an advanced degree or continued study. The bill authorizes up to 15% of the funds available under the Blaine House Scholars Program to be used for these loans for 2 years and requires the Finance Authority of Maine to make recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education by January 1, 1992, to ensure the appropriate allocation of all the funds available for the program.