

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1415

S.P. 477

In Senate, February 18, 1999

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### **An Act to Restore Funding for Continuing Education for Teachers.**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TREAT of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representative FULLER of Manchester and  
Senators: CAREY of Kennebec, CATHCART of Penobscot, LaFOUNTAIN of York,  
NUTTING of Androscoggin, Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, McKEE of Wayne.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12504, as amended by PL 1997, c. 24, Pt. G, §1, is further amended to read:

**§12504. Allocation of funds**

The chief executive officer shall establish by rule the allocation of funds available under this chapter.

Loans of up to \$1,500 per academic year or \$6,000 total may be made to eligible teachers engaged in graduate study or continuing education and students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification. Loans of up to \$3,000 per academic year or \$12,000 total may be made to eligible graduating high school seniors and college students. An individual who has received a Teachers for Maine loan or a Blaine House Scholars Program loan as a graduating high school senior or as a college student may also receive a loan for students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification or as a teacher engaged in graduate education or continuing education. In no event may an individual receive more than \$18,000 in total. Loans for undergraduate students and postbaccalaureate recipients are for one academic year and are automatically renewed if the recipient maintains a grade point average of 2.5 based on a 4.0 grade point system or the equivalent. Loans for teachers are automatically renewable only if the applicant is pursuing a continuing course of study approved at the time of the initial application.

An eligible individual who has received a loan as a student pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification may subsequently receive a loan as a teacher engaged in graduate study or continuing education, including undergraduate courses. In no event may an individual receive Teachers for Maine loans or Blaine House Scholars Program loans totaling more than \$6,000.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12508, first ¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 24, Pt. G, §2, is further amended to read:

Each recipient of a loan designated for teachers pursuing graduate study or continuing education or for students pursuing postbaccalaureate teacher certification may cancel the total amount of the loan by completing one year of return service for each year a loan is received in the public schools or private schools approved for tuition purposes in the State. The return service requirement is one year of return service for 2 loans received if return service is performed in underserved subject areas or in teacher shortage areas. Return service for this purpose must be performed within 3 years of graduation from the institution of higher education or completion of the course or

2 courses for which the funds were given. In no event may return  
3 service be credited for the same semester for which an individual  
4 receives a loan pursuant to this chapter. An individual  
5 receiving loan forgiveness for a loan for a teacher pursuing  
6 graduate study or continuing education or a postbaccalaureate  
7 teacher certification loan may not receive loan forgiveness for  
8 any undergraduate loan simultaneously. If the chief executive  
9 officer grants a deferment, the time period for performance of  
10 return service may be extended for the same period as the  
11 deferment. Failure to fulfill the return service option will  
12 necessitate repayment to the authority as follows.

13 **Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated  
14 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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	<b>1999-00</b>	<b>2000-01</b>
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16 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

17 **Student Financial Assistance Programs**

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All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000
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19 Provides funds to restore  
20 funding for graduate study  
21 and the continuing education  
22 portion of the Teachers for  
23 Maine Program.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part G eliminated provisions  
26 that allowed teachers pursuing graduate study or continuing  
27 education to receive loans from the Teachers for Maine Program.  
28 This bill reauthorizes those types of loans and restores funding  
29 for the program at levels previously available.