

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1978

S.P. 703

In Senate, March 23, 1999

**An Act to Support the Graduate Education of Speech Pathologists for
Maine Schools.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln, Representatives: BAKER of Bangor,
BRENNAN of Portland, FULLER of Manchester, QUINT of Portland, STEVENS of Orono,
WILLIAMS of Orono.

2
3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 428**, as amended, is further amended by
5 repealing the chapter headnote and enacting the following in its
6 place:

7 **CHAPTER 428**

8
9
10 **EDUCATORS FOR MAINE PROGRAM**

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

12
13 **2-A. Educator shortage area.** "Educator shortage area"
14 means a geographic region of the State for which there is an
15 insufficient supply of teachers or speech pathologists, as
16 determined by the chief executive officer in consultation with
17 the commissioner.

18
19 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§6-A**, as enacted by PL 1991, c.
20 553, §2, is amended to read:

21
22 **6-A. Students pursuing postbaccalaureate certification.**
23 "Students pursuing postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~ certification" means
24 students who have earned a Bachelor of Arts degree or its
25 equivalent and are pursuing a program of studies leading to
26 certification as a teacher or speech pathologist.

27
28 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§6-B**, as enacted by PL 1995, c.
29 117, Pt. E, §3 and affected by §13, is repealed.

30
31 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 1995, c.
32 117, Pt. E, §4 and affected by §13, is further amended to read:

33
34 **7. Underserved subject areas.** "Underserved subject areas"
35 means those subjects or programs, required or authorized to be
36 taught in the public schools for which there is an insufficient
37 supply of teachers or speech pathologists, as determined by the
38 chief executive officer in consultation with the ~~Commissioner of~~
39 Education ~~commissioner~~.

40
41 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §12502**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 117, Pt.
42 E, §5 and affected by §13, is further amended to read:

43
44 **§12502. Educators for Maine Program**

45
46 There is established the ~~Teachers~~ Educators for Maine
47 Program to provide financial assistance to college students,
48 graduating high school seniors and students pursuing
49 postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~ certification who demonstrate an
50 interest in pursuing a career in teaching or speech pathology in
51 this State for postsecondary education and to teachers and speech
52

2 pathologists for advanced degree or continued study. The program
3 recognizes outstanding graduating high school seniors, college
4 students and students pursuing postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~
5 certification. The chief executive officer shall administer the
6 program and shall establish by rule the rates of interest or fees
7 to be charged.

8 **Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §12503**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 117, Pt.
9 E, §6 and affected by §13, is further amended to read:

10 **§12503. Educators for Maine loan recipients**

11
12 Each year graduating high school seniors, college students
13 and students pursuing postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~ certification who
14 show evidence of academic achievement may be considered for
15 recognition as ~~Teachers~~ Educators for Maine loan recipients.
16 Applications must be submitted to the chief executive officer at
17 a time and in a format to be determined by rule of the chief
18 executive officer.

19
20 The Governor, after consultation with the chief executive
21 officer, shall announce the names of those individuals selected
22 by the chief executive officer to be ~~Teachers~~ Educators for Maine
23 loan recipients.

24
25 **Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §12504**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 24, Pt.
26 G, §1, is further amended to read:

27 **§12504. Allocation of funds**

28
29 The chief executive officer shall establish by rule the
30 allocation of funds available under this chapter.

31
32 Loans of up to \$1,500 per academic year or \$6,000 total may
33 be made to students pursuing postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~
34 certification. Loans of up to \$3,000 per academic year or
35 \$12,000 total may be made to eligible graduating high school
36 seniors and college students. An individual who has received a
37 ~~Teachers~~ Educators for Maine loan or a Blaine House Scholars
38 Program loan as a graduating high school senior or as a college
39 student may also receive a loan for students pursuing
40 postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~ certification or as a teacher or speech
41 pathologist engaged in graduate education or continuing
42 education. In no event may an individual receive more than
43 \$18,000 in total. Loans for undergraduate students and
44 postbaccalaureate recipients are for one academic year and are
45 automatically renewed if the recipient maintains a grade point
46 average of 2.5 based on a 4.0 grade point system or the
47 equivalent.

2 In no event may an individual receive Teachers Educators
for Maine loans or Blaine House Scholars Program loans totaling
more than \$6,000.

4
6 **Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §12505**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 117, Pt.
E, §8 and affected by §13, is further amended to read:

8 **§12505. Eligibility requirements**

10 **1. Eligibility for postsecondary education loans.** A
postsecondary education loan may be given only to a high school
12 graduate, or the equivalent, who is a resident of the State, who
has been recognized as a Teachers Educators for Maine loan
14 recipient and who has met other eligibility criteria established
by rule of the authority. Preference must be given to students
16 enrolled in a program that has been determined to be an
underserved subject area.

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

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

34 **Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §12507, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1995, c.
117, Pt. E, §9 and affected by §13, is further amended to read:

36
38 Each graduating high school senior or college student who
receives a loan may cancel the total amount of the loan by
40 completing one year of return services in the public schools or
private schools approved for tuition purposes in the State for
each year the individual receives a loan. The return service
42 requirement is one year for every 2 years or less that the
individual receives a loan if return service is performed in
44 underserved subject areas or in ~~teacher~~ educator shortage areas.
Return service for this purpose must be performed within 5 years
46 of graduation from the institution of higher education. If the
chief executive officer grants a deferment, the time period for
48 performance of return service may be extended for the same period
as the deferment. Return service may not be credited for the
50 same semester for which an individual receives a loan pursuant to
this chapter. Failure to fulfill the return service option
52 necessitates repayment to the authority as follows.

2 **Sec. 11. 20-A MRSA §12508**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 24, Pt.
G, §2, is further amended to read:

4
6 **§12508. Repayment and return service provisions - loans
for teachers and speech pathologists and students
pursuing postbaccalaureate certification**

8
10 Each recipient of a loan designated for students pursuing
12 postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~ certification may cancel the total
14 amount of the loan by completing one year of return service for
16 each year a loan is received in the public schools or private
18 schools approved for tuition purposes in the State. The return
20 service requirement is one year of return service for 2 loans
22 received if return service is performed in underserved subject
24 areas or in ~~teacher~~ educator shortage areas. Return service for
26 this purpose must be performed within 3 years of graduation from
28 the institution of higher education or completion of the course
or courses for which the funds were given. In no event may
return service be credited for the same semester for which an
individual receives a loan pursuant to this chapter. An
individual receiving loan forgiveness for a loan for a
postbaccalaureate ~~teacher~~ certification loan may not receive loan
forgiveness for any undergraduate loan simultaneously. If the
chief executive officer grants a deferment, the time period for
performance of return service may be extended for the same period
as the deferment. Failure to fulfill the return service option
will necessitate repayment to the authority as follows.

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

34 **2. Time for repayment.** The total debt must be repaid to
36 the authority within 3 years of graduation from the institution
of higher education or courses for which the funds were given or
38 within 3 years of repayment of any other loans made pursuant to
this chapter. If the chief executive officer grants a deferment,
40 the time period may be extended up to the period of the
deferment. A repayment schedule including due dates must be set
42 by the chief executive officer.

44 **3. Deferment.** A recipient of a loan may seek a deferment
46 of the annual payments for a period or periods as established by
the chief executive officer who shall make a determination on a
48 case-by-case basis. The chief executive officer may grant a
deferment in the event that a recipient of a loan evidences
50 intent to teach or practice speech pathology and inability to
secure employment necessary to obtain forgiveness of the loan at
52 the time the deferment is sought. The chief executive officer
shall require certification of the intent annually and grant a
one-year deferment for each successful request for deferment. A

2 recipient may not receive more than 5 one-year deferments. The
3 decision of the chief executive officer is final.

4 **Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §12509**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 117, Pt.
5 E, §11 and affected by §§12 and 13, is further amended to read:

6 **§12509. Nonlapsing revolving fund**
7

8 The ~~Teachers~~ Educators for Maine fund is created under the
9 jurisdiction of the authority as a nonlapsing, interest-earning,
10 revolving fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Any
11 unexpended balance in the ~~Teachers~~ Educators for Maine fund
12 carries over for continued use under this chapter. The authority
13 may receive, invest and expend, on behalf of the funds, money
14 from gifts, grants, bequests, loans, including loans obtained
15 pursuant to chapter 417-B, and donations, in addition to money
16 appropriated or allocated by the State. Loan repayments under
17 this section or other repayments to the authority must be
18 invested by the authority, as provided by law, with the earned
19 income to be added to the fund. Money received by the authority
20 on behalf of the fund, except interest income, must be used for
21 the designated purpose; interest income may be used for the
22 designated purpose or to pay student financial assistance
23 administrative costs incurred by the authority as determined
24 appropriate by the authority.
25

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28

29 **SUMMARY**

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31 This bill expands the current college student loan program
32 for teachers to cover graduate study by speech pathologists
33 seeking educational certification.
34

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