

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2505

DATE: 3/23/2000

(Filing No. S-580 )

**BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 963, L.D. 2505, Bill, "An Act to Support Child Care Education and Services"

Amend the bill by striking out all of the emergency preamble.

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§§1-D and 1-E are enacted to read:

1-D. Child care. "Child care" means a regular service of care and protection provided for compensation for any part of a day less than 24 hours to a child or children under 16 years of age whose parents work outside the home, attend an educational program or are otherwise unable to care for their children.

1-E. Child development student. "Child development student" means a college student or graduating high school senior who is pursuing child development associate certification or an associate's degree in child development.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12502, as amended by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. 000, §6 and c. 441, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§12502. Educators for Maine Program

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There is established the Educators for Maine Program to provide financial assistance to college students, graduating high school seniors and students pursuing postbaccalaureate certification, child development associate certification or an associate's degree in child development who demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in teaching in this State for postsecondary education and to teachers and speech pathologists for advanced-degree or continued study. The program recognizes outstanding graduating high school seniors, college students and students pursuing postbaccalaureate certification or child development associate certification or an associate's degree in child development. The chief executive officer shall administer the program and shall establish by rule the rates of interest or fees to be charged.

**Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12504, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 441, §8, is further amended to read:

Loans of up to \$1,500 per academic year or \$6,000 total may be made to students pursuing postbaccalaureate 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. Loans of up to \$3,000 per academic year or \$6,000 total may be made to eligible child development students pursuing an associate's degree in child development, and loans of up to \$3,000 total but not exceeding the cost of tuition, books and fees may be made to child development students pursuing a child development associate certification. An individual who has received a Educators 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 certification or as a teacher or speech pathologist 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 and child development students pursuing an associate's degree in child development 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.

**Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12507, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 441, §10, is further amended to read:

Each graduating high school senior or college student, other than a child development student, who receives a loan may cancel the total amount of the loan by 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. Each child development student who receives a

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2 loan may obtain cancellation of no more than 50% of the total  
4 amount of the program loans received in that category. Each  
6 child development student may receive cancellation of 50% of the  
8 average annual loan amount after completing one year of return  
10 service. Cancellation may only be credited for a number of years  
12 equal to the number of years the child development student  
14 received a loan. The return service requirement is one year for  
16 every 2 years or less that the individual receives a loan if  
18 return service is performed in underserved subject areas or in  
educator shortage areas. Return service for this purpose must be performed within 5 years of graduation from the institution of higher education. 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. Return service may not be credited for the same semester for which an individual receives a loan pursuant to this chapter. Failure to fulfill the return service option necessitates repayment to the authority as follows.'

20 Further amend the bill in section 4 in subsection 4 in the  
22 last line (page 2, line 37 in L.D.) by striking out the  
24 following: "child care facility in the State" and inserting in  
its place the following: 'licensed day care center or for a  
certified home day care provider, as defined in Title 22, section  
8301-A'

26 Further amend the bill in section 6 in the 7th line (page 3,  
28 line 31 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "\$150,000" and  
inserting in its place the following: '\$100,000'

30 Further amend the bill by striking out all of the emergency  
32 clause.

34 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any  
36 nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read  
consecutively.

38 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
40 summary the following:

42 **FISCAL NOTE**

44 **2000-01**

46 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

48 General Fund \$100,000

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This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Finance Authority of Maine to be used for scholarships under the Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund.

Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part 000, provided a General Fund appropriation of \$150,000 in fiscal year 1999-00 on a one-time basis to be used for scholarships under the Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund.

The Finance Authority of Maine will incur some minor additional costs to adopt rules pertaining to eligibility standards for child development students. These costs can be absorbed within the authority's existing budgeted resources.

The additional costs associated with developing and maintaining a list of quality child care sites in the State can be absorbed by the Department of Human Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

## SUMMARY

This amendment makes the following changes to the Educators for Maine Program:

1. It resolves a conflict in the Educators for Maine Program as amended by Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part 000, section 6 and chapter 441, section 6;

2. It deletes the exemption for child development students from the requirement to show evidence of academic achievement;

3. It establishes loan limits for child development students;

4. It limits the maximum amount of loan forgiveness available to child development students; and

5. It makes changes to the return service requirement for child development services.

The amendment also decreases the appropriation for the Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund, removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause and adds a fiscal note to the bill.