

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 605

S.P. 177

In Senate, February 8, 2001

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### An Act to Improve Opportunities for Recruitment of Teachers.

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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 MILLS of Somerset.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13203** is enacted to read:

6 **§13203. Teacher recruitment**

8 **1. Teacher Recruitment Fund.** The Teacher Recruitment Fund is established to provide a state subsidy of up to \$2,000 to a school administrative unit that can demonstrate the existence of a hard-to-fill teaching position. Any unexpended funds remaining in the fund may not lapse but must be carried forward for the benefit of the fund.

14 **2. Fund administration.** The department shall administer the Teacher Recruitment Fund and shall adopt rules and eligibility criteria to administer the fund. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

20 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §§13405 to 13407** are enacted to read:

22 **§13405. Updated minimum salaries**

24 Notwithstanding section 13402, subsection 2, starting with the 2002-2003 school year, each school administrative unit and state-operated school shall establish a minimum starting salary for certified teachers at 1.5 times the federal poverty level for a family of 3, as defined in Title 22, section 3762.

30 **§13406. Master's degree differential**

32 Each school administrative unit and state-operated school shall provide a salary differential of at least \$2,000 to a certified teacher who holds a master's degree in education or a related field from an accredited college or university.

36 **§13407. Maine Teachers Student Loan Forgiveness Program**

38 There is established the Maine Teachers Student Loan Forgiveness Program to be administered by the commissioner. The program provides a student loan forgiveness incentive to education graduates who teach in schools in this State with an additional incentive for science and mathematics teachers. The amount of loan forgiveness is calculated based on the number of years of service as a teacher in this State, up to \$3,000 per year for loans incurred at a college or university in this State and up to \$5,000 per year for a teacher with a master's degree or with a degree in science or mathematics. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this program. Rules adopted pursuant to

2 this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
3 chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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#### 5 **SUMMARY**

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7 This bill creates a state fund to provide a subsidy of up to  
8 \$2,000 per district to help schools hire teachers for  
9 hard-to-fill positions. The bill sets a minimum teacher salary  
10 of 1.5 times the federal poverty level for a family of 3 with an  
11 additional \$2,000 differential for teachers with master's  
12 degrees. The bill also establishes the Maine Teachers Student  
13 Loan Forgiveness Program as an additional incentive for teachers  
14 to teach in schools in this State.