

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 902, L.D. 1194, Bill, "An Act to Alleviate the Shortage of Pediatric Dentists in Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12302-A is enacted to read:

§12302-A. Maine Pediatric Dental Recruitment Incentive

1. Establishment. The Maine Pediatric Dental Recruitment Incentive, referred to in this chapter as the "incentive," is established. The authority shall administer the incentive. Under this incentive, the chief executive officer shall award up to 3 incentive grants annually up to an aggregate of 12. As provided in subsection 3, incentive grants are available to any person who is eligible for licensure as a doctor of dental medicine in the State and who holds board certification as a pediatric dentist.

2. Application process. Application must be made directly to the authority.

3. Eligibility. Persons eligible to participate in the incentive are applicants under subsection 1 who meet eligibility criteria established by rule of the authority, which at a minimum must require:

A. That the applicant is not currently residing in or practicing dentistry in the State;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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B. That the applicant is eligible for licensure to practice dental medicine in the State;

C. That the applicant holds or is eligible for board certification in pediatric dentistry; and

D. That the applicant is willing to serve children enrolled in Medicaid, expanded Medicaid and Cub Care programs.

4. Maximum amount. The maximum amount of an incentive grant to each participant is \$25,000 per year for a period of up to 2 years.

5. Grant award. An applicant under subsection 1 who meets the eligibility criteria under subsection 3 and who is selected for receipt of an incentive grant by the authority is an awardee and is entitled to receive first-year grant funds after submitting to the authority satisfactory evidence of the following criteria:

A. That the awardee has established a permanent residence in the State;

B. That the awardee has established and has committed in writing to engage in the practice of pediatric dentistry in the State for at least one year; and

C. That the awardee is serving or has committed to serving children enrolled in the Medicaid or Cub Care programs.

The award of 2nd-year grant funds is conditioned upon the submission of satisfactory evidence that these criteria continue to be met no less than 12 months following the award of the first-year grant.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 7. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2001-02 2002-03

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
Maine Dental Education Loan Program

2 All Other \$50,000

4 Provides funds for incentive
6 grants for pediatric dentists
8 who will move to the State
and serve children enrolled
in the Medicaid and Cub Care
programs.

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12 **Maine Dental Education Loan
Program**

14 All Other \$14,000 \$5,500

16 Provides funds for drafting
18 rules and establishing and
administering the new
incentive grant program
20 created by this Act.

22 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**
24 **TOTAL** \$64,000 \$5,500'

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

28 **FISCAL NOTE**

30 2001-02 2002-03

32 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

34 General Fund \$64,000 \$5,500

36 This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000
38 in fiscal year 2001-02 for the Maine Dental Education Loan
Program to provide incentive grants to attract new dentists to
40 the State. The bill addresses some 2nd- and successive-year
programmatic issues, but only addresses grant funding for the
42 first year. If 2 grants for the maximum amount of \$25,000 each
were awarded in fiscal year 2001-02, only minimal interest
44 earnings would carry forward into fiscal year 2002-03. In order
to award new grants in fiscal year 2002-03, in addition to
46 awarding 2nd-year grants to the first year's recipients,
additional appropriations would have to be authorized.

48 The Finance Authority of Maine will require additional
50 General Fund appropriations of \$14,000 and \$5,500 in fiscal years
2001-02 and 2002-03, respectively, for drafting rules and
52 establishing and administering the new incentive grant program
created by this bill.'

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SUMMARY

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6 This amendment amends the Maine Pediatric Dental Recruitment
8 Incentive provisions of the bill. It allows an awardee to
10 receive a grant based on establishing residency and a pediatric
dental practice and committing in writing to practicing for at
least one year and to serving children in the Medicaid and Cub
Care programs. It replaces the appropriation section and adds a
fiscal note to the bill.