

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1194

H.P. 902

House of Representatives, February 28, 2001

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**An Act to Alleviate the Shortage of Pediatric Dentists in Maine.**

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Manchester.  
Cosponsored by Senator KILKELLY of Lincoln and  
Representatives: KANE of Saco, LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford, MAYO of Bath,  
MENDROS of Lewiston, PEAVEY of Woolwich, TWOMEY of Biddeford, WESTON of  
Montville, Senator: TURNER of Cumberland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1999, c.  
401, Pt. NN, §2 and affected by §4 and enacted by c. 496, §2, is  
6 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

8 1. Establishment. The Maine Dental Education Loan Program,  
referred to in this chapter as the "loan program," is  
10 established. The authority shall administer the loan program.  
Under this loan program, the chief executive officer shall award  
12 up to 3 loans or loan repayment agreements annually up to an  
aggregate of 12. As provided in subsection 3:

14 A. Loans are available to Maine residents enrolled in a  
dental school; or

16 B. A loan repayment agreement is available to a person who  
18 is eligible for licensure as a doctor of dental medicine in  
the State and who has outstanding dental education loans.

20 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1999, c.  
22 401, Pt. NN, §2 and affected by §4 and enacted by c. 496, §2, is  
repealed and the following enacted in its place:

24 3. Eligibility. The following persons are eligible to  
26 participate in the loan program:

28 A. Applicants under subsection 1, paragraph A who meet  
30 eligibility criteria established by rule of the authority,  
which at a minimum must require:

32 (1) That the student be a Maine resident;

34 (2) That the student be enrolled in a dental school;  
and

36 (3) That priority be given to a student:

38 (a) Who previously received a loan pursuant to  
40 this section;

42 (b) Who exhibits financial need; and

44 (c) Who demonstrates an interest in serving an  
46 underserved population area; and

48 B. Applicants under subsection 1, paragraph B who meet  
eligibility criteria established by rule of the authority,  
50 which at a minimum must require:

2                   (1) That the applicant be eligible for licensure to  
3                   practice dental medicine in the State;

4                   (2) That the applicant have outstanding dental  
5                   education loans; and

6                   (3) That the applicant be willing to serve an  
7                   underserved population area.

10           **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§8,** as enacted by PL 1999, c.  
11           401, Pt. NN, §2 and affected by §4 and enacted by c. 496, §2, is  
12           amended to read:

14           **8. Deferments.** Deferments on the repayment of a loan under  
15           the loan program may be granted for causes established by rule of  
16           the authority. Interest at a rate to be determined by rule of  
17           the authority must be assessed during the deferment. The  
18           student's total debt to the authority, including principal and  
19           interest, must be repaid either through return service or cash  
20           payments. The chief executive officer shall make determinations  
21           of deferment on a case-by-case basis. The decision of the chief  
22           executive officer is final.

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

26           **§12302-A. Maine Pediatric Dental Recruitment Incentive**

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

38           **2. Application process.** Application must be made directly  
39           to the authority.

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

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

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

2           C. That the applicant holds board certification in  
3           pediatric dentistry; and

4  
5           D. That the applicant is willing to serve children enrolled  
6           in Medicaid, expanded Medicaid and Cub Care programs.

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

10  
11           5. Grant award. An applicant under subsection 1 who meets  
12           the eligibility criteria under subsection 3 and who is selected  
13           for receipt of an incentive grant by the authority is an awardee  
14           and is entitled to receive first-year grant funds after  
15           submitting to the authority satisfactory evidence of the  
16           following criteria:

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

19           B. That the awardee has been actively engaged in the  
20           practice of pediatric dentistry in the State for at least  
21           one year; and

22           C. That the awardee is serving children enrolled in the  
23           Medicaid, expanded Medicaid or Cub Care programs.

24  
25           The award of 2nd-year grant funds is conditioned upon the  
26           submission of satisfactory evidence that these criteria continue  
27           to be met no less than 12 months following the award of the  
28           first-year grant.

29  
30           **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12303, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1999, c.**  
31           **401, Pt. NN, §2 and affected by §4 and enacted by c. 496, §2, is**  
32           **amended to read:**

33           **1. Fund created.** A nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving  
34           fund under the jurisdiction of the authority is created to carry  
35           out the purposes of this chapter. Any unexpended balance in the  
36           fund carries over for continued use under this chapter. The  
37           authority may receive, invest and expend, on behalf of the fund,  
38           money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to  
39           money appropriated or allocated by the State. Loan repayments  
40           under this chapter or other repayments to the authority must be  
41           invested by the authority, as provided by law, with the earned  
42           income to be added to the fund. Money received by the authority  
43           on behalf of the fund, except interest income, must be used for  
44           the designated purpose; interest income may be used for the  
45           designated purpose or to pay student financial assistance

2 administrative costs incurred by the authority for the operation  
of the loan program.

4 **Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §12303, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

6 **3. Loan repayments and grant funds maintained in separate**  
**accounts.** The authority shall maintain separate accounts for  
8 purposes of the loan program and the incentive. Annual loan  
10 repayments may not be used for the purpose of making incentive  
12 grants pursuant to section 12302-A. Funds allocated for the  
purpose of making incentive grants may be used only for that  
purpose.

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

16 2001-02

18 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

20 **Maine Dental Education Loan**  
22 **Program**

24 All Other \$75,000

26 Provides funds for incentive grants for  
28 pediatric dentists who will move to the  
State and who will serve children enrolled  
30 in the Medicaid, expanded Medicaid and Cub  
Care programs.

32 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill establishes a grant program to attract pediatric  
36 dentists to the State in order to alleviate the shortage of this  
dental specialty.