

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1061

S.P. 378

In Senate, March 1, 2005

An Act To Improve the Recruitment of Teachers

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 §13402, sub-§§7 and 8** are enacted to read:

6 7. **Minimum salary.** A teacher certified under chapter 501
8 may not receive an annual salary in an amount that is less than
10 1.5 times the federal nonfarm income official poverty line, as
12 defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget, for a
14 family of 3.

16 8. **Master's degrees.** A teacher certified under chapter 501
18 who has a master's degree or higher may not receive an annual
20 salary in an amount that is less than 1.5 times the federal
22 nonfarm income official poverty line, as defined by the federal
24 Office of Management and Budget, for a family of 3 plus \$2,000.

26 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §§13803 and 13804** are enacted to read:

28 **§13803. Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program**

30 There is established the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program,
32 administered by the commissioner. The program must pay \$3,000
34 per year towards a loan incurred at a postsecondary institution
36 in the State by a teacher who teaches in the State after
38 graduation, unless the teacher also possesses a degree in math or
40 science or a master's degree or higher, in which case the program
42 must pay \$5,000 per year towards a loan incurred at a
44 postsecondary institution in the State by the teacher.

46 **§13804. Vacant Teaching Position Fund**

48 There is established the Vacant Teaching Position Fund, a
50 nonlapsing, interest-bearing account administered by the
52 commissioner. All money deposited in the fund and the earnings
54 on that money remain in the fund and must be used to provide a
56 subsidy of up to \$2,000 to a school administrative unit that
58 cannot fill a needed teaching position before September 1st and
60 for the necessary administrative and personnel costs associated
62 with the management of the fund.

64 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following
66 appropriations and allocations are made.

68 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

70 **Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program**

72 Initiative: Provides funds to forgive loans incurred at
74 postsecondary schools in the State by teachers who teach in the
76 State.

2	GENERAL FUND	2005-06	2006-07
	All Other	\$100,000	\$100,000
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>
6	Vacant Teaching Position Fund		
8	Initiative: Provides funds to subsidize school administrative units that cannot fill needed teaching positions by September 1st.		
10	GENERAL FUND	2005-06	2006-07
12	All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
14	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
16	EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
18	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2005-06	2006-07
20	GENERAL FUND	\$150,000	\$150,000
22	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

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SUMMARY

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This bill:

1. Sets the minimum salaries of teachers at 1.5 times the federal poverty threshold;
2. Sets the minimum salaries of teachers who possess master's degrees or higher at 1.5 times the federal poverty threshold plus \$2,000;
3. Establishes the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program to provide funds to forgive loans incurred at Maine postsecondary schools by teachers who teach in the State; and
4. Establishes the Vacant Teaching Position Fund to provide funds to subsidize school administrative units that cannot fill needed teaching positions by September 1st.