

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 177

S.P. 63

January 21, 2009

An Act To Modify the Maine Dental Education Loan Program

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Finance Authority of Maine pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development 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 RAYE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative PERRY of Calais and
Senator: ALFOND of Cumberland, Representatives: LEWIN of Eliot, MILLER of Somerville,
STRANG BURGESS of Cumberland, SUTHERLAND of Chapman.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Maine Dental Education Loan Program is limited to 3 combined
4 awards annually and an aggregate of 12; and

5 **Whereas,** money in the program is currently sufficient to fund additional awards;
6 and

7 **Whereas,** that money could be awarded in 2009 but for the current limitation and, if
8 the limitation were eliminated in time to make awards to eligible students entering dental
9 school in 2009, more students could benefit; and

10 **Whereas,** there is an urgent need in the State of Maine for additional dentists
11 practicing primary dentistry, which this program addresses by providing financial support
12 for dental students and certain dental practitioners; and

13 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
14 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
16 therefore,

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

18 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§1,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c.
19 510, Pt. E, §1, is amended to read:

20 **1. Establishment.** The Maine Dental Education Loan Program, referred to in this
21 chapter as "the program," is established. The authority shall administer the program.
22 Under this program, beginning in fiscal year 2000-01 and ending in fiscal year 2007-08,
23 the chief executive officer shall award up to 3 loans or loan repayment agreements
24 annually up to an aggregate of 12. Beginning in fiscal year 2008-09, the chief executive
25 officer shall award up to 3 loans or loan repayment agreements annually and may award
26 additional loans or loan repayment agreements annually as funds permit. As provided in
27 subsection 3:

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

29 B. A loan repayment agreement is available to a person who is eligible for licensure
30 as a doctor of dental medicine in Maine and who has outstanding dental education
31 loans.

32 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
33 legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

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This bill allows the Finance Authority of Maine to make more than 3 loans or loan repayment agreements annually under the Maine Dental Education Loan Program if funds permit.