

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

R.S.

Date: 5/4/9

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 494, L.D. 711, Bill, "An Act To Authorize the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program"

Amend the bill in section 1 in §1038 in subsection 3 by striking out all of paragraphs B to D (page 1, lines 17 to 22 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

B. Have completed a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in social work from an accredited school of social work within 3 years prior to the date the applicant's application is received by the authority;

C. Possess an outstanding education loan relating to the degree;

D. Practice in an underserved practice area, including but not limited to the practice of social work:

- (1) In a public or private child welfare or family service agency;
(2) In a public interest law service;
(3) In a public child care facility;
(4) In a public service for individuals with disabilities;
(5) In a public service for the elderly;
(6) In a public service for veterans; or
(7) At an organization exempt from taxation under the Unites States Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3).

Priority consideration must be given to social workers practicing in a public or private child welfare or family service agency, in a public service for the elderly or in a public service for individuals with disabilities;

E. Submit an application to the authority, which must include but is not limited to information concerning academic performance, awards and special honors and community involvement; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R.S.

1 F. Have signed a statement of intent in a form acceptable to the authority to work as
2 a social worker in the State for a minimum of 3 years after acceptance into the
3 program.'

4 Amend the bill in section 1 in §1038 in subsection 4 by striking out all of paragraph
5 A (page 1, lines 26 to 31 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

6 'A. The authority may receive, invest and expend on behalf of the fund money from
7 gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to money appropriated or allocated
8 by the State and any federal funds received by the State for the benefit of social
9 workers who have outstanding education loans. Money received by the authority on
10 behalf of the fund must be used for the purposes of this subchapter. The fund must
11 be maintained and administered by the authority. Any unexpended balance in the
12 fund carries forward for continued use under this subchapter.'

13 Amend the bill in section 1 in §1038 in subsection 5 in the 2nd and 3rd lines (page 1,
14 line 35 and page 2, line 1 in L.D.) by striking out all of the 2nd sentence and inserting the
15 following: 'The authority shall repay the loans of up to 3 applicants each year who meet
16 the criteria in subsection 3 in the amount of up to \$5,000 for each applicant.'

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This amendment amends the criteria that apply to social workers who may be eligible
19 for the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program. The amendment also strikes
20 the provision in the bill that authorized the Finance Authority of Maine to borrow money
21 on behalf of the program and clarifies that the Finance Authority of Maine is authorized
22 to receive, invest and expend any federal funds received by the State for the benefit of
23 social workers who have outstanding education loans.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 711

LR 1238(02)

An Act To Authorize the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Undetermined current biennium cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine and creates a nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund which is authorized to receive money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to money appropriated or allocated by the State and any federal funds received by the State in order to carry out the purposes of the program. The bill also allows the administrative costs incurred by the Authority to be paid out of the revolving fund. However, this legislation does not identify a source of funding for the program so it is not clear whether there are funds available from these sources to capitalize the fund or to provide ongoing support for the program. The Finance Authority of Maine has estimated the cost to establish and administer the program to be \$21,300 in fiscal 2009-10 and \$5,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2010-11 for the ongoing administrative costs. The cost of the loan repayment program can not be determined at this time and will depend on the number of qualified applicants and the loan repayment amount per applicant in the program.