

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 711

H.P. 494

House of Representatives, February 24, 2009

An Act To Authorize the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested
and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CASAVANT of Biddeford.
Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, BEAUDETTE of Biddeford, BEAUDOIN of
Biddeford, CAIN of Orono, LEGG of Kennebunk, PERRY of Calais, RICHARDSON of
Carmel, Senator: ALFOND of Cumberland.

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

2 Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 110, sub-c. 2-B is enacted to read:

3 SUBCHAPTER 2-B

4 SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

5 §1038. Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program

6 1. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates,
7 the following terms have the following meanings.

8 A. "Fund" means the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Fund established in
9 subsection 4.

10 B. "Program" means the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program
11 established in subsection 2.

12 2. Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program. The Social Work
13 Education Loan Repayment Program is established for the purpose of increasing the
14 number of social workers practicing in the State.

15 3. Criteria. For an applicant to participate in the program, the applicant must:

16 A. Be a social worker licensed under Title 32, chapter 83;

17 B. Have completed a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in social work from an
18 accredited school of social work;

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

20 D. Have signed a statement of intent in a form acceptable to the authority to work as
21 a social worker in the State for a minimum of 3 years after acceptance into the
22 program.

23 4. Social Work Education Loan Repayment Fund. The Social Work Education
24 Loan Repayment Fund is created as a nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund to
25 carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

26 A. The authority may receive, invest and expend on behalf of the fund money from
27 gifts, grants, bequests, loans and donations in addition to money appropriated or
28 allocated by the State. Money received by the authority on behalf of the fund must be
29 used for the purposes of this subchapter. The fund must be maintained and
30 administered by the authority. Any unexpended balance in the fund carries forward
31 for continued use under this subchapter.

32 B. Costs and expenses of maintaining, servicing and administering the fund and of
33 administering the program may be paid out of amounts in the fund.

34 5. Administration. The program and the fund are administered by the authority.
35 The authority shall repay the loan of an applicant who meets the criteria in subsection 3 in

1 the amount of up to \$5,000. The authority may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of
2 this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules
3 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This bill establishes the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program.