

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1879

Date: 4/12/18

(Filing No. H- 759)

**LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
128TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1311, L.D. 1879, Bill, "An Act To Enhance and Increase the Availability of Mental Health Providers in Maine"

Amend the bill by inserting after the enacting clause and before section 1 the following:

**'Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 110, sub-c. 2-B, as amended, is repealed.'**

Amend the bill in section 1 in §12941 by striking out all of subsection 3 (page 1, lines 21 to 28 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

**'3. Mental health provider. "Mental health provider" means an individual who possesses, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree from a qualified institution of higher education and who practices in the State as:**

- A. An individual licensed under Title 32, chapter 83; or
- B. An individual licensed under Title 32, chapter 119.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §12942 in subsection 2 by striking out all of paragraph D (page 2, lines 12 to 23 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

**'D. Practice in an underserved practice area in the State as defined in rule, including but not limited to the practice of mental health care or social work:**

- (1) In a public or private child welfare or family service agency;
- (2) In a public or private educational institution, kindergarten to grade 12;
- (3) In a public or private hospital;
- (4) In a federally qualified health center;
- (5) In a community-based behavioral health center;
- (6) In a public interest law service;
- (7) In a public child care facility;

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1311, L.D. 1879

- 1           (8) In a public service for individuals with disabilities;
- 2           (9) In a public service for the elderly;
- 3           (10) In a public service for veterans; or
- 4           (11) At an organization exempt from taxation under the United States Internal
- 5           Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6);'

6           Amend the bill in section 1 in §12944 in the first paragraph in the first line (page 3,  
7 line 11 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "may" and inserting the following: 'shall'

8           Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

9           '**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
10 allocations are made.

11           **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

12           **Maine Mental Health Providers Loan Repayment Fund N281**

13           Initiative: Provides a one-time appropriation for the repayment of student loans for  
14 certain mental health providers who practice in underserved practice areas and to pay the  
15 administrative costs of the fund.

16	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
17	All Other	\$1,000,000	\$0
18			
19	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
20			

21           Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
22 section number to read consecutively.

23           **SUMMARY**

24           The bill establishes the Maine Mental Health Providers Loan Repayment Program,  
25 which allows certain types of licensed social workers and professional counselors to  
26 apply for loan repayment assistance, as long as the applicants agree to practice for 5 years  
27 in one of a list of underserved practice areas in the State. This amendment expands the  
28 pool of providers eligible to apply for the program to include all social workers licensed  
29 by the State Board of Social Worker Licensure and all counselors licensed by the Board  
30 of Counseling Professionals Licensure and expands the categories of underserved practice  
31 areas to include federally qualified health centers, community-based behavioral health  
32 centers and organizations exempt from taxation under the United States Internal Revenue  
33 Code of 1986, Section 501(c)(6).

34           The amendment further clarifies that the program is funded through a one-time  
35 appropriation of \$1,000,000, rather than an ongoing appropriation as in the bill.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1311, L.D. 1879

1 The amendment also repeals the currently unfunded Social Work Education Loan  
2 Repayment Program in the Maine Revised Statutes.

3 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

4 (See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1879

LR 2946(02)

An Act To Enhance and Increase the Availability of Mental Health Providers in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-759)*  
Committee: Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

## Fiscal Note

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2017-18 to a newly created Maine Mental Health Providers Loan Repayment Fund within the Finance Authority of Maine as part of a new Maine Mental Health Providers Loan Repayment Program established to provide up to 3 qualified applicants with \$5,000 per year for a period of 5 years to assist the applicant in the repayment of student loans.