

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 632

H.P. 409

House of Representatives, February 14, 2023

An Act to Amend the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, PERRY of Calais, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1038, sub-§3, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 427, §1, is
3 amended to read:

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

7 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1038, sub-§3, ¶D**, as corrected by RR 2009, c. 1, §11, is
8 amended to read:

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

11 (1) In a public or private child welfare or family service agency;

12 (2) In a public interest law service;

13 (3) In a public child care facility;

14 (4) In a public service for individuals with disabilities;

15 (5) In a public service for the elderly;

16 (6) In a public service for veterans; or

17 (7) At an organization exempt from taxation under the United States Internal
18 Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3);

19 (8) In the criminal justice or correctional system; or

20 (9) In private practice and at least 15% of professional time is spent providing
21 services to clients covered by Medicare or the MaineCare program.

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

25 The authority shall establish a system of priority for participation in the program. The
26 authority shall solicit input from stakeholders, including social work faculty and
27 students and the leadership of groups representing the interests of social workers, in
28 the development of the system of priority and in changes to the application process;

29 **Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1038, sub-§3, ¶E**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 427, §1, is
30 amended to read:

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

34 **Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §1038, sub-§3, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 427, §1, is
35 amended to read:

36 F. Have signed a statement of intent in a form acceptable to the authority to work as a
37 social worker ~~in the State~~ serving residents of this State for a minimum of 3 years after
38 acceptance into the program.

