

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H P 866, L D 1352, "An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer"

Amend the amendment in section 2 in §803-A by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 2, lines 21 to 26 in amendment) and inserting the following

2. Education prior to law office study. Before beginning a law office study program under subsection 3, an applicant under this section shall produce to the board satisfactory evidence that the applicant has graduated with a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in this country or has graduated with a bachelor's degree from a college or university in another country that is accredited under the laws of that country.

Amend the amendment in section 2 in §803-A in subsection 3 by striking out all of paragraph A (page 2, lines 29 to 39 in amendment) and inserting the following

'A Pursued a systematic course of legal study designed to prepare the applicant for the general practice of law for at least 4 years in the office of and under the supervision of a judge or an attorney in this State who has been a member of the bar in good standing for at least 3 years before the applicant's course of legal study began and who has been designated as qualified to supervise a systematic course of legal study pursuant to rules adopted by the Board of Overseers of the Bar The course of legal study must be approved by the Board of Overseers of the Bar pursuant to rules adopted by the Board of Overseers of the Bar and must include, at a minimum, a study of the subjects tested on each of the examinations prepared or adopted by the board to determine if an applicant has the qualifications required by this chapter for admission to the bar The supervising judge or attorney may enlist the assistance of other judges and attorneys who have been designated as qualified to supervise a systematic course of legal study pursuant to rules adopted by the Board of Overseers of the Bar to provide additional supervision for the applicant during portions of the applicant's course of legal study for purposes of providing the applicant with the greatest possible breadth of experience and instruction.'

Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively

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SUMMARY

This amendment amends the provisions of Committee Amendment "A" that set out requirements for an applicant for a law office study program. This amendment retains the provision that allows the applicant to have graduated with a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in this country or in another country that is accredited under the laws of that country but eliminates the alternative that an applicant work as a paralegal for the equivalent of 4 years on a full-time basis. With respect to the course of legal study required by Committee Amendment "A", this amendment requires a supervising judge or attorney to have been designated as qualified to supervise a systematic course of legal study pursuant to rules adopted by the Board of Overseers of the Bar and requires that the course of legal study be approved by the Board of Overseers of the Bar pursuant to rules adopted by the Board of Overseers of the Bar.

SPONSORED BY: *Joseph Baldacci*
(Senator BALDACCI, J)
COUNTY: Penobscot

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)