

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 804 - L.D. 1256

**An Act to Increase Access to Oral Health Care by Expanding the Maine
Dental Education Loan Program**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2009, c. 8, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Establishment. The Maine Dental Education Loan Program, referred to in this chapter as "the program," is established. The authority shall administer the program. Under this program, beginning in fiscal year 2000-01 and ending in fiscal year 2007-08, the chief executive officer shall award up to 3 loans or loan repayment agreements annually up to an aggregate of 12. Beginning in fiscal year 2008-09, the chief executive officer shall award up to 3 loans or loan repayment agreements annually for doctors of dental medicine and up to 6 loans or loan repayment agreements annually for dental hygienists, dental therapists, expanded function dental assistants or dental assistants and may award additional loans or loan repayment agreements annually as funds permit. As provided in subsection 3:

A. Loans are available to Maine residents enrolled in a dental school or enrolled in any accredited school in a program of study for dental hygienists, dental therapists, expanded function dental assistants or dental assistants; or

B. A loan repayment agreement is available to a person who is eligible for licensure as a doctor of dental medicine or as a dental hygienist, dental therapist, expanded function dental assistant or dental assistant in Maine and who has outstanding dental education loans.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§3, ¶A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. A, §17, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) That the student be enrolled in a dental school or in any accredited school with a program of study for dental hygienists, dental therapists, expanded function dental assistants or dental assistants; and

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§3, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. A, §17, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) That the applicant be eligible for licensure to practice dental medicine or as a dental hygienist, dental therapist, expanded function dental assistant or dental assistant in Maine;