

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 738****LR 1633(02)****An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer by Establishing a Law Office Study Program****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "****Committee: Judiciary****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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**Fiscal Note**

	<b>FY 2025-26</b>	<b>FY 2026-27</b>	<b>Projections FY 2027-28</b>	<b>Projections FY 2028-29</b>
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

**Fiscal Detail and Notes**

This bill includes an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$200,000 per year to the Judicial Branch to be distributed to the Board of Bar Examiners and the Board of Overseers of the Bar to provide funding for staffing costs and related expenditures associated with establishing a law office study program as an alternative to qualify for admission to the bar of the State. A combination of funds generated by new or increased fees charged by the boards could potentially generate upwards of \$250,000, for example increasing the licensing fees by \$50. This appropriation is intended to supplement those potential funds. The Board of Bar Examiners recently updated their fees in March 2025 and the Board of Overseers of the Bar last updated their fees in 2021.