



QUESTIONS FOR WORK SESSION

TO: IDEA Committee

FROM: Erik Jorgensen / MaineHousing

RE: LD 1978 – “An Act to Promote Home Ownership by Reducing Education Debt

DATE: March 7, 2022

At the work session for LD 1978, Representative Geiger asked about whether MaineHousing had any sense of how many first-time homebuyer candidates are denied loans because of student debt.

I conferred with MaineHousing’s homeownership department, and they indicated that because the loans originate at numerous banks around the state, our agency does not have loan denial information at that level of detail. We acquire the loans after they are approved.

Based on research we conducted as part of the report we provided to the IDEA Committee, we do know that student debt constitutes a significant barrier for many people in the United States who are seeking to become homeowners.