



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1256

H.P. 804

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

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

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

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, CRAVEN of Lewiston, CROCKETT of
Portland, MEYER of Eliot, ROBERTS of South Berwick, STOVER of Boothbay, WHITE of
Waterville.

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

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

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

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

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

21 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§3, ¶A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2005, c.
22 397, Pt. A, §17, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

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

26 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12302, sub-§3, ¶B**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2005, c.
27 397, Pt. A, §17, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

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

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill expands eligibility for the Maine Dental Education Loan Program to include
33 dental hygienists, dental therapists, expanded function dental assistants and dental
34 assistants.