

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 215

S.P. 84

In Senate, February 3, 2015

An Act To Improve Student Retention in Maine's Postsecondary Institutions

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator ALFOND of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MAKER of Calais and
Senators: KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock, MILLETT of Cumberland, President
THIBODEAU of Waldo, VALENTINO of York, Representatives: Speaker EVES of North
Berwick, FREDETTE of Newport, McCABE of Skowhegan.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6902-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§6902-A. Postsecondary services**

4 The corporation shall provide services, in accordance with this section and for the
5 purpose of significantly increasing the percentage of eligible students who obtain a
6 postsecondary degree, to up to 4 postsecondary institutions in the State to assist up to 200
7 students in completing a postsecondary course of study.

8 **1. "Eligible student" defined.** As used in this section, "eligible student" means a
9 student who:

10 A. Has previously been enrolled in a high school program administered by the
11 corporation;

12 B. Has been in or currently is in foster care; or

13 C. Has earned a high school equivalency diploma through an alternative program
14 within the previous 5 years.

15 **2. Student services.** The corporation shall:

16 A. Provide academic and social mentoring and counseling to eligible students,
17 including monitoring of academic performance and connection to campus life;

18 B. Assist each eligible student in developing an individualized academic plan for
19 completing a course of study and consider each eligible student's individual academic
20 needs and provide connections to sources of academic support, if necessary;

21 C. Develop a system of peer mentoring between eligible students and other college
22 students and between eligible students and college graduates; and

23 D. Provide eligible students with financial guidance relating to postsecondary
24 expenses, including assisting eligible students in obtaining all available sources of
25 financial aid.

26 **Sec. 2. Report.** Jobs for Maine's Graduates shall determine methods for
27 implementing the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6902-A and report its
28 findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December
29 31, 2016. The committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the
30 127th Legislature.

31 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made.

33 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

34 **Jobs for Maine's Graduates - College Retention N181**

35 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to support college retention efforts for Jobs for Maine's
36 Graduates students. Jobs for Maine's Graduates may seek matching funds from public

1 and private sources on both a state and national level to support the college retention
2 efforts.

3

4	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
5	All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000
6			
7	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

8

SUMMARY

9 This bill directs Jobs for Maine's Graduates, a state-authorized nonprofit corporation,
10 to provide mentoring and counseling services, course guidance and graduation planning,
11 peer support services and financial guidance to up to 200 students and at up to 4
12 postsecondary institutions in the State for the purpose of significantly increasing the
13 percentage of eligible students who obtain a postsecondary degree. Eligible students
14 must have previously been enrolled in a Jobs for Maine's Graduates high school program,
15 been in or currently be in foster care or have earned a high school equivalency diploma
16 within the 5 years prior to obtaining these services.