

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 155

S.P. 42

In Senate, January 17, 2019

### An Act To Ensure Transparency in College Costs

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.  
Cosponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden and  
Senator: CHENETTE of York, Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, PLUECKER of  
Warren, RYKERSON of Kittery.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10014** is enacted to read:

3 **§10014. Student fees; financial aid offer form**

4 **1. Student fees assessed.** A postsecondary institution may not assess a student fees  
5 unless the institution uses the standardized financial aid offer form under subsection 2  
6 when providing written or electronic financial aid offers to students enrolled or accepted  
7 for enrollment in the institution. For purposes of this section, "fees" does not include the  
8 cost of tuition, room and board or books and supplies.

9 A postsecondary institution must identify and publish on a publicly accessible website all  
10 fees assessable to students.

11 **2. Financial aid offer form; standardized.** The commissioner in consultation with  
12 postsecondary institutions incorporated, chartered or established under the laws of the  
13 State shall develop a standard format for written and electronic financial aid offers to  
14 students enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a postsecondary institution. At a  
15 minimum, the standardized financial aid offer form must include the cost of tuition, room  
16 and board and books and supplies as determined under 20 United States Code, Chapter  
17 28, Subchapter IV, Part E as amended and clearly identify each additional student fee as  
18 determined under 20 United States Code, Chapter 28, Subchapter IV, Part E as amended  
19 to be paid to the postsecondary institution.

20 The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted  
21 pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
22 subchapter 2-A.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill prohibits a postsecondary institution from assessing a student fees unless the  
25 institution uses the standardized financial aid offer form developed by the Commissioner  
26 of Education. The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to develop a standard  
27 format for written and electronic financial aid offers to students enrolled or accepted for  
28 enrollment in a postsecondary institution. The bill specifies that the standardized  
29 financial aid offer form must clearly identify each student fee to be paid to the  
30 postsecondary institution.