

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/22/19

(Filing No. H-321)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 640, L.D. 866, Bill, "An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRS A §10014 is enacted to read:

§10014. Homeless students

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Homeless student" means a student under 25 years of age who has been verified, at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the student's admission to or while enrolled in a state postsecondary educational institution, as a homeless child or youth as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq. by:

(1) The director of a governmental or nonprofit agency that receives public or private funding to provide services to persons experiencing homelessness, or the director's designee;

(2) A local education agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq. or a school counselor or school social worker as defined in section 4008, subsection 1;

(3) An attorney representing the student in any legal matter, if the student is under 18 years of age;

(4) The director of a federal outreach and student services program designed to identify and provide services for economically disadvantaged individuals or a

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 federal program about gaining early awareness and readiness for undergraduate  
2 programs, or the director's designee; or

3 (5) A financial aid administrator at a state postsecondary educational institution.

4 B. "State postsecondary educational institution" means the University of Maine  
5 System and any college within the system, the Maine Community College System  
6 and any college within the system and Maine Maritime Academy.

7 **2. Homeless student liaison.** Each state postsecondary educational institution may  
8 designate a staff member who is employed within the institution's financial aid office or  
9 another appropriate office or department to serve as the homeless student liaison. The  
10 homeless student liaison must have expertise in the financial aid eligibility of homeless  
11 students and in identifying services for homeless students. The liaison shall assist  
12 homeless students in applying for federal and state financial aid and applying for and  
13 receiving available services.

14 **3. Housing resources.** When housing resources are offered by and available for  
15 occupancy at a state postsecondary educational institution, the state postsecondary  
16 educational institution shall:

17 A. Give homeless students who are enrolled full-time in that state postsecondary  
18 educational institution priority for available housing resources, including but not  
19 limited to priority for housing facilities that remain open for occupation during  
20 academic and campus breaks; and

21 B. Develop individual housing plans for homeless students who are enrolled full-  
22 time.

23 **4. Homeless student financial assistance grant.** Beginning in fiscal year 2020-21,  
24 each state postsecondary educational institution may award a homeless student a grant  
25 under this subsection. The grant award is limited to the amount of the cost of tuition, less  
26 all other financial aid received from a Federal Pell Grant or any other merit-based or  
27 needs-based grant or scholarship, not including a grant awarded under this subsection,  
28 that the homeless student is not required to repay. To be eligible for a grant under this  
29 subsection, a homeless student must have completed an application for federal student  
30 financial aid programs for which the student may be eligible for the academic year for  
31 which the student applies. The availability of the grant and the amount of the grant under  
32 this subsection are subject to the amounts appropriated by the Legislature.

33 **5. Fund.** Each state postsecondary educational institution shall establish a  
34 nonlapsing fund to distribute grant awards pursuant to subsection 4. The University of  
35 Maine System, Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy shall  
36 include the estimated full funding necessary to provide the grants under subsection 4 in  
37 the preparation of the biennial budget for presentation to the Governor and the  
38 Legislature.'

39 **SUMMARY**

40 This amendment, which strikes and replaces the bill, does the following.





# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 866

LR 1564(02)

## An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A.(H-321)*  
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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### Fiscal Note

Potential future biennium cost increase - General Fund

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2020-21, each state postsecondary educational institution may award grants to eligible homeless students equal to the cost of tuition less all other financial aid received by the student, subject to funding provided by the Legislature. The cost of this provision can not be estimated at this time and will depend on the number of eligible homeless students, the cost of tuition and the amount of financial aid received by each student. The bill requires the University of Maine System (UMS), the Maine Community College System (MCCS) and the Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) to include the estimated amount of funding necessary to fully fund the grants as part of their biennial budget funding request.

Additional costs to the UMS, MCCS and MMA to provide a homeless student liaison to assist homeless students in applying for federal and state financial aid and to develop individual housing plans for homeless students who are enrolled as full-time students can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.