

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2014

H.P. 1435

House of Representatives, January 14, 2020

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine State Grant Program

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Finance Authority of Maine pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick.

1 **Emergency preamble.** **Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11616 imposes limitations
4 on the duration of Maine State Grant Program funding for students in order to encourage
5 degree completion and conserve scarce public resources; and

6 **Whereas,** during the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature, the Legislature
7 appropriated additional funds to the Maine State Grant Program in order to facilitate the
8 return to education and completion of degrees by adult learners in order to contribute to
9 their personal well-being and the state workforce; and

10 **Whereas,** a provision in the laws governing the program prevents an adult learner
11 from receiving a grant for more than 10 semesters or the equivalent thereof at the
12 institution the adult learner attends; and

13 **Whereas,** this legislation increases the semester limit from 10 to 12 semesters for
14 adult learners and needs to take effect for fiscal year 2019-20; and

15 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
16 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
17 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
18 therefore,

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

20 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11616, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 642, §6, is
21 further amended to read:

22 **2. Period of study.** An eligible full-time or part-time student may receive a grant for
23 a period not to exceed 10 semesters or the equivalent thereof at the institution that the
24 student is attending, except that an adult learner as determined by the authority by routine
25 technical rule may receive a grant for a period not to exceed 12 semesters.

26 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
27 legislation takes effect when approved.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill allows an adult learner benefiting from a grant under the Maine State Grant
30 Program to receive up to 12 semesters' worth of grant funding.