

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 700

S.P. 317

In Senate, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in
the University of Maine System by Awarding Waivers of Tuition
and Fees to Eligible Students**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, DUSON of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, Representative: DILL of Old Town.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10912** is enacted to read:

3 **§10912. Waiver of tuition and fees; Federal Pell Grant-eligible in-state students**

4 **1. Eligibility.** Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the University of Maine
5 System shall award a waiver of tuition and fees to an eligible student under this section.
6 An eligible student must:

7 A. Be enrolled full-time at any University of Maine System campus, except that a
8 student may not be a student who has transferred into the University of Maine System
9 or who is returning to complete a degree;

10 B. Complete a free application for federal student aid program application, or successor
11 application, and be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant for the academic year for which
12 the applicant seeks a waiver;

13 C. Be a United States citizen or noncitizen who is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant for
14 the academic year for which the applicant seeks a waiver;

15 D. Have resided in the State for 12 continuous months before acceptance at the
16 University of Maine System; and

17 E. Maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average in each academic year.

18 A University of Maine System campus may establish additional eligibility requirements.

19 **2. Waiver amount.** The amount of a waiver of tuition and fees awarded under this
20 section is limited to the difference between the amount of the tuition and fees at the
21 University of Maine System campus at which the student is enrolled and the sum of the
22 amount provided by the Federal Pell Grant and the amount of aid received by the student
23 from other sources, not including merit-based scholarships awarded to the student by the
24 University of Maine System.

25 **3. Funding.** The availability of a waiver of tuition and fees under this section is limited
26 to the availability of funds needed to administer the waivers.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires the University of Maine System to award waivers of tuition and fees
29 to eligible students who are enrolled full-time at any University of Maine System campus.
30 The amount of the waiver is limited to the difference between the amount of the tuition and
31 fees and the sum of the amount provided by the Federal Pell Grant and the amount of aid
32 received by the student, not including merit-based scholarships awarded to the student by
33 the University of Maine System. The availability of the waiver is limited to the availability
34 of funding.