

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 736

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H.P. 478

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

**An Act to Improve Ferry Service Reliability by Providing  
Scholarships at the Maine Maritime Academy**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative RAY of Lincolnville.  
Cosponsored by Representative: DODGE of Belfast.

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

2           **Sec. 1. Scholarship program.** The Maine Maritime Academy shall create the  
3 Workforce Development Scholarship Program to provide scholarships in an amount not to  
4 exceed \$1,250 for each student for a minimum of 115 students at the academy to assist  
5 those students in earning the initial credits necessary to work at a state, municipal, private  
6 or quasi-public ferry service operator located in and serving residents of the State.

7           **Sec. 2. Operator consultation.** The Maine Maritime Academy shall consult with  
8 the Maine State Ferry Service or a state, municipal, private or quasi-public ferry service  
9 operator located in and serving residents of the State in the development and  
10 implementation of the Workforce Development Scholarship Program under section 1 for  
11 the purposes of aligning operator needs with applicant training. The Maine Maritime  
12 Academy and one or more ferry service operators shall jointly develop a method for  
13 processing applications that allows flexibility for operator administrative capacities.

14                                                                       **SUMMARY**

15           This bill requires the Maine Maritime Academy to create the Workforce Development  
16 Scholarship Program to assist students in earning the initial credits necessary to work at a  
17 state, municipal, private or quasi-public ferry service operator located in and serving  
18 residents of the State. The bill also requires the Maine Maritime Academy to consult with  
19 the Maine State Ferry Service or a state, municipal, private or quasi-public ferry service  
20 operator in the development and implementation of the Workforce Development  
21 Scholarship Program and jointly develop a method for processing applications.