

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

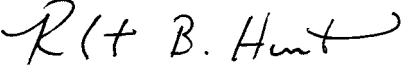
No. 747

H.P. 489

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce Student Homelessness

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard
Beach, LOOKNER of Portland, MALON of Biddeford, MURPHY of Scarborough,
SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 14**, as amended, is further amended to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 14**

4 **SUBSIDY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS**

5 **§4994-A. Subsidy Rental assistance program for homeless students**

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

8 A. "Elementary school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection
9 10.

10 B. "Homeless student" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection
11 13-A.

12 C. "Secondary school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection
13 32.

14 **2. Program established.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish a ~~housing~~
15 ~~subsidy~~ rental assistance program for homeless students in elementary school and
16 secondary school. The authority shall adopt rules to implement this program. Rules
17 adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter
18 375, subchapter 2-A.

19 **Sec. 2. PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. KKKK, §2** is amended to read:

20 **Sec. KKKK-2. Subsidy Rental assistance program development.** The Maine
21 State Housing Authority, referred to in this section as "the authority," shall develop a rental
22 ~~subsidy~~ assistance program for homeless students in coordination with the Department of
23 Education and the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies or service
24 providers as the authority determines appropriate. The authority shall consider ways in
25 which the services provided by school-based housing navigators established by the federal
26 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act could benefit the administration of a rental
27 ~~subsidy~~ assistance program. The program must provide ~~housing subsidies~~ rental assistance
28 directly to homeless students or to an adult family member or guardian of the homeless
29 student. ~~In developing the program, the authority shall incorporate elements to provide~~
30 ~~housing subsidies to homeless students who have not attained 18 years of age who do not~~
31 ~~have adult family members or guardians to secure housing on their behalf.~~ The authority
32 shall report to the joint standing or joint select committee of the Legislature having
33 jurisdiction over housing matters on the progress of the program's development no later
34 than January 15, 2025.

35 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
36 allocations are made.

37 **HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

38 **Rental Assistance Program for Homeless Students N501**

1 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for rental assistance for homeless students in elementary
2 school and secondary school.

3	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
4	All Other	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

7

SUMMARY

8 This bill changes the name of the subsidy program for homeless students to the rental
9 assistance program for homeless students. It removes the requirement that, in developing
10 the program, the Maine State Housing Authority must incorporate elements to provide
11 rental assistance to homeless students who have not attained 18 years of age who do not
12 have adult family members or guardians to secure housing on their behalf. It provides
13 ongoing funds for rental assistance for homeless students in elementary school and
14 secondary school.