

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION
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JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
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allowance must be deducted from the temporary disability benefit. A temporary disability benefit may not be made if the confidential employee's disability is compensable under Title 39-A.

6. Benefit cap; subsequent periods of total disability. A confidential employee may not receive more than 365 days of temporary disability benefits during that confidential employee's entire tenure of service as a confidential employee, regardless of any breaks in service. If a confidential employee does not use all 365 days of temporary disability benefits for a single period of continuous leave for total disability, the confidential employee carries the remaining balance of the 365 days and may use those remaining days for subsequent periods of continuous leave for total disability in accordance with this section.

7. Continuation of regular employment benefits. A confidential employee who is provided temporary disability benefits under this section must continue to receive the regular employment benefits that were provided to the confidential employee immediately before the first date of the total disability.

Sec. 2. P&SL 1989, c. 86, Pt. C, §5 is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 630

H.P. 1413 - L.D. 2098

An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes and Laws

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 321, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §10017, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. BB, §1, is amended to read:

The Higher Education Administrative Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to receive participation fees and application fees from institutions of higher education for applications under section 10707 and for applications for membership or membership renewal in the interstate reciprocity agreement authorized under section 405, subsection 3, paragraph W. Funds deposited in the fund must be used to support the department's facilitation of the interstate reciprocity agreement and for other department costs associated with the administration of higher education in the State.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §10703, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Basis for degree-granting authority. Temporary approval granted pursuant to this section may not

be used as a basis for a recommendation by the state board for permanent degree-granting authority under section 10707.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §10707, as amended by PL 2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §13, is further amended to read:

§10707. Applications

1. Degree-granting authority. Applications for authority to grant degrees shall ~~must~~ be made on application to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

A. The state board may recommend an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority without additional review if:

(1) The state board has approved or renewed approval for the educational institution to offer academic programs in the State within 5 years of the institution's application for degree-granting authority; and

(2) The educational institution has applied for degree-granting authority only for degrees for which the institution offers academic programs approved by the state board.

B. Upon recommending an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority under section 10704, the state board shall provide any reports resulting from completed state board reviews of the applicant educational institution to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.

2. Temporary use of name. Applications for temporary state board authority to use the name "community college," "college" or "university" must be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

3. Courses for academic credit. Applications by out-of-state educational institutions to offer courses for academic credit shall ~~must~~ be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. Such an educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

4. Coordinated programs. Applications to offer coordinated programs shall ~~must~~ be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for

the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

5. Exempt status. Applications for exempt status under section 10708, subsection 2, ~~shall~~ must be made to the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

Sec. 5. P&SL 1973, c. 29, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Degrees. The College of the Atlantic, located in Bar Harbor, shall have the power to confer the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Human Ecology as is usually conferred by like institutions of higher learning.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 631

H.P. 1414 - L.D. 2099

An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4771, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. VVV, §1, is further amended to read:

§4771. Eligible institution ~~and~~, semester and academic year; defined

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible institution" means the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy. "Semester" means the fall, spring or summer term of an academic year. "Academic year" means one full academic cycle that includes a summer semester, a fall semester and a spring semester.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Academic standing. Unless granted a waiver by the eligible institution, the student is maintaining a minimum secondary school grade point average of at least ~~3.0~~ 2.0 on a scale of 4.0, or the equivalent of a "B C" average, as determined by the school administrative unit.

This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §2, is further amended to read:

5. Parental approval. The student's parent approves; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §3, is amended to read:

6. Recommendation. The student has received a recommendation to take a postsecondary course or courses at an eligible institution from the student's school administration or one of the student's secondary school teachers following an assessment of the student by the school administration, or from a school official with knowledge of the student's academic performance; ~~and~~

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Public tuition. The student is a resident of the State who:

A. Is enrolled in a school administrative unit or in a magnet school pursuant to chapter 312 in the State;

B. Is enrolled as a tuition student in a school administrative unit or a private school approved for tuition purposes pursuant to chapter 219; or

C. Is a student receiving home instruction as outlined in section 5001-A, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (4).

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §4772, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §§1 to 3, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

This chapter may not be construed to limit an eligible institution's authority to determine individual student enrollment.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §4772-A, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §4, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

This section is repealed July 31, 2028.

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §4772-B, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 400, §1, is amended to read:

A student who meets the requirements of this section is eligible to participate in postsecondary courses at an eligible institution under this section, subject to the requirements and conditions of sections 4774 ~~to 4776~~ and 4775. Notwithstanding section 15672, subsection 32, a student described in this section is considered to be a subsidizable pupil for purposes of receiving the subsidy provided in this chapter.

Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Transcript. A high school shall record the number of credits awarded and the corresponding postsecondary institution granting the credits on a student's high school transcript.