

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

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
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JULY 29, 2026

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

Augusta, Maine
2026

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This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028;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.

Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Secondary school lifetime credit cap. A secondary school student is eligible to receive state subsidy for postsecondary courses up to a lifetime credit cap of 18 total credits.

This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028.

Sec. 11. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Early college career pathway lifetime credit cap. A career and technical education student in a designated early college career pathway is eligible to receive state subsidy for postsecondary courses up to a lifetime credit cap of 24 total credits.

This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028.

Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §4775, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §8, is repealed.

Sec. 13. 20-A MRSA §4775, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §8, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the department shall reimburse each eligible institution the cost of in-state tuition up to the maximum rate, calculated as follows: 50% of the average in-state tuition rate for the highest and lowest in-state tuition rates established by the University of Maine System for eligible institutions within the system. Funds appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter must be in addition to the customary and ongoing amounts appropriated for general purpose aid for local schools.

Sec. 14. 20-A MRSA §4776, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. VVV, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 15. Department of Education report on secondary school students receiving state subsidies for postsecondary courses. The Department of Education, referred to in this section as "the department," in collaboration with eligible institutions under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 208-A, shall provide a report regarding the effect of changes made by this Act to eligibility requirements for a secondary school student to receive a state subsidy for postsecondary courses and regarding the imposition of lifetime credit caps on secondary school students and career and technical education students in a designated early college career pathway. By February 1, 2028, the department shall submit the report, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, which may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 632

H.P. 1424 - L.D. 2109

An Act to Define "Public Education" and Clarify That a Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must Be Located in the State

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§23-C is enacted to read:

23-C. Public education. "Public education" means education that:

A. Is provided primarily at public expense;

B. Meets all state and federal requirements for education for enrolled students;

C. Is provided to students for free in every grade level from kindergarten to grade 12; and

D. Is provided in accordance with section 1001, subsection 8.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2951, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1985, c. 797, §25, is further amended to read:

3. Incorporated; located within State. Is incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine or of the United States and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the instructional facility and administrative offices are located within the State;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15689-F, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2013, c. 581, §11, is further amended to read:

3. Casino revenues. If the annual funding for public education instruction for children in public preschool programs and public education for children in kindergarten and grades one to 12 is supported by casino revenues credited to the department pursuant to Title 8, section 1036, the department shall journal expenditures from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools, General Fund account to the K-12 Essential Programs and Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account to meet financial obligations and for purposes of cash flow.

Sec. 4. Approval for receipt of public funds by private schools not located within State; students currently enrolled. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2951, subsection 3, a private school that is not located within the State that was approved for tuition purposes pursuant to Title 20-A, section 2951 prior to the effective date of this Act at which a student from the State is enrolled pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5204, subsection 4 as of the effective date of this Act may continue to receive