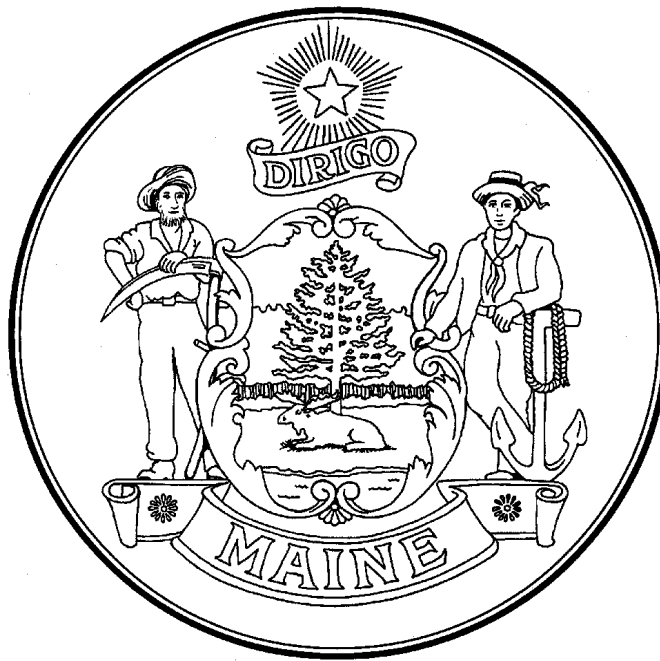


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
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
2026

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This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028.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This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028.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 C, §8, is repealed.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 VVV, §2, is repealed.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

the tuition rate for that student as calculated pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5806 until the student has completed the student's secondary school education at the private school, as long as the private school continues to meet all requirements for approval under Title 20-A, section 2951 other than the requirements of Title 20-A, section 2951, subsection 3.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 633

H.P. 1429 - L.D. 2114

An Act Regarding Public Preschool Programs Serving Children Who Are 3 Years of Age

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§23-A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 241, §1, is further amended to read:

23-A. Public preschool program. "Public preschool program" means a program offered by a public elementary school pursuant to chapter 203 that provides instruction to children who are 3 or 4 years of age, including but not limited to a ~~Head Start~~ program of instruction provided by providers licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services that is approved as a component of the public preschool program.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §405, sub-§3, ¶T, as amended by PL 2013, c. 581, §1, is further amended to read:

T. Establish and maintain a 5-year plan for education that includes goals and policies for the education of children ~~who are 4 years of age~~ in public preschool programs and children in kindergarten and grades one to 12 and that promotes services for public preschool children. The plan must incorporate and build upon the work of the Task Force on Learning Results established in Public Law 1993, chapter 290 and the federal GOALS 2000: Educate America Act;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4251, first ¶, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. C, §1, is further amended to read:

The intent of this subchapter is to encourage school administrative units to place an increased emphasis on instruction and curriculum for all children ~~beginning at 4 years of age~~ in public preschool programs to grade 2. This subchapter is not intended as a method of financing existing efforts but as a way of encouraging the development of new or expanded programs.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4252, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2007, c. 141, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Programs for children 3 years of age, 4 years of age and 5 years of age. Encourage the development of public preschool programs or 2-year kindergartens in conformity with section 5201, subsection 2, paragraph C, ~~D and E~~ and other appropriate programs to address the needs of children 3 years of age, 4 years of age and 5 years of age;

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA c. 203, sub-c. 3, head-note is amended to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3

PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR ~~CHILDREN 4 YEARS OF AGE~~

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 581, §3, is amended to read:

2. Allowable costs; children 4 years of age. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year and for each subsequent school year, the State may provide start-up funding for the allowable costs to operate public preschool programs for children 4 years of age under this subchapter.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Allowable costs; children 3 years of age with disabilities. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and for each subsequent school year, in addition to the funding permitted pursuant to subsection 2, the State may provide start-up funding for the allowable costs to operate public preschool programs for children who are 3 years of age and have been identified as a child with a disability pursuant to section 7001, subsection 1-B.

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §5, is further amended to read:

3. Grant funds. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year and for each subsequent school year until the 2026-2027 school year, the commissioner may provide start-up funding to qualified school administrative units to operate public preschool programs for children 4 years of age and, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and for each subsequent school year, public preschool programs for children 3 or 4 years of age. Grants provided for allowable costs for approved public preschool programs must be provided from state, federal or private funds appropriated, allocated or authorized by the Legislature for that purpose.

Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 581, §3, is amended to read:

4. Qualifications; rules. To qualify for a grant under this section, a school administrative unit must