

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1652

H. P. 1155

House of Representatives, May 11, 1967

Reported by Mr. Allen from Committee on Education. Printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Providing State Scholarships for Higher Education.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 2215, amended. Section 2215 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended by adding a new paragraph, to read as follows:

An institution of higher education shall be any educational institution within the State which requires a high school diploma or its equivalent as an entrance requirement and which is approved by the State Board of Education.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 20, § 2216, amended. The last paragraph of section 2216 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

Scholarships shall be awarded in each county, annually, on the basis of one scholarship for ~~every 2 members~~ **each member** of the House of Representatives therein, and shall be awarded to qualified residents of a county without regard to representative district boundaries. ~~For purposes of this chapter, counties having an odd number of representatives shall be counted as having representatives to the next even number. Beginning with the biennium next following the enactment of this law, the number of scholarships to be awarded in each county annually shall be increased to one for each representative therein.~~ Scholarships shall be awarded on the basis of need and ability under rules determined by the State Scholarship Board. Additional scholarships shall be awarded each county on the same basis, in accordance with this section, in such number as may be fixed and determined by the State Scholarship Board. Each scholarship shall entitle the holder thereof to ~~a~~ **an annual grant of full tuition**

up to \$400 to be used for tuition, fees, books, and room and board while in attendance at ~~a~~ **an approved** state-supported ~~college or university~~ **institution of higher education** during a period not to exceed 4 years of undergraduate study, or an annual grant of \$400 to be applied to tuition, fees, books, and board and room at any approved private ~~college~~ **institution of higher education** in this State, during a period of not to exceed 4 years of undergraduate study, but not to exceed a total of \$1,600, such grant to be held subject to the limitations of section 2219 and 2222. No assistance shall be continued beyond the completion of graduation requirements in the course or program in which a student was first enrolled, such provision not prohibiting an award holder from transferring from one institution to another of comparable grade nor prohibiting a transfer of major areas of study. If the scholarship holder is graduated from an **approved institution of higher education** with less than the baccalaureate degree, scholarship assistance may be continued for the remainder of said 4 years during attendance at an **approved institution of higher education** ~~granting the baccalaureate degree~~ whenever the institution ~~granting the baccalaureate degree~~ accepts for full credit toward its degree requirements **some or all of the studies completed at the former institution.** The annual grant of \$400 may be applied to tuition ~~of a college or university,~~ **fees, books, and board and room at an approved institution of higher education** not in the State of Maine only if the scholarship holder elects to pursue an undergraduate course of study not available at ~~a college or university~~ **an approved institution of higher education** within the State of Maine.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 20, § 2217, amended. The last sentence of section 2217 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

Such additional scholarships shall be equitably apportioned by the State Scholarship Board according to the terms of the gift or, in the absence of any limiting conditions, **to students selected from the state list or apportioned** among the several counties on the basis as those provided by section 2216.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 20, § 2218, amended. Section 2218 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2218. State Scholarship Board

There shall be created a State Scholarship Board, hereinafter in this chapter called the "board," consisting of the Commissioner of Education, the President of the University of Maine, the chairman of the State Board of Education, one member to be appointed by the Governor from among the presidents of the several state ~~teachers~~ colleges, the President of the Maine Teachers Association and the chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education.

The ~~State Scholarship~~ board shall make rules governing the award of scholarships including the determination of need and ability, the minimum levels of achievement to be required of each grantee in order to retain the scholarship for each succeeding year, the issuance and cancellation of certificates entitling persons to the benefits thereof, the use of such scholarships by the persons ~~thereof~~

to whom granted, and the rights and duties of such state scholars and the colleges institution of higher education they attend with respect to such scholarships and providing generally for carrying into effect the provisions of this chapter.

In determining an applicant's capacity to profit from higher education, the ~~Scholarship~~ board is authorized to obtain evidence of his scholastic record in secondary school including scores and relative standing on such aptitude or achievement tests as may be deemed appropriate and, for any applicant who has left high school before completing the course of study required for graduation, it is authorized to require the applicant to take such tests or examinations as will demonstrate a scholastic achievement equal to that required of high school graduates. Subject to the rules herein authorized, the Commissioner of Education shall prepare and disseminate information concerning this chapter.

In case a scholarship belonging to a county shall not be claimed by a resident of such county, or if there is no resident of the county entitled to appointment to the vacant scholarship in such county, the ~~Scholarship~~ board shall fill such vacancy by appointing from the state list a person entitled to a scholarship. The ~~Scholarship~~ board may grant a leave of absence for a period of not to exceed 12 months to any holder of a scholarship who is temporarily unable to avail himself of the benefits of such scholarship because of illness or other causes satisfactory to the board. Notwithstanding the time limitations contained in section 2216, the granting of such leave shall operate to extend the period of time during which the holder of such scholarship shall be entitled to the benefits thereof and shall not operate to reduce the total amounts of such benefits.

In furtherance of their duties, the said board may appoint a scholarship board of review, composed of college admissions officers or other persons qualified in reviewing transcripts, transfers, needs and changes in status of students. Such technical specialists shall be paid from the State Scholarship Fund in amounts to be approved by the board.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 20, § 2219, sub-§ 3, amended. Subsection 3 of section 2219 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

3. Financial resources. That his financial resources are such that, in the absence of scholarship aid, he will be deterred by financial considerations from completing his education at an institution of higher education. **Financial need shall be determined to be for \$400 annually or in excess of that amount.** For a person who has left school before completing the course of studies required for graduation and who is at least 21 years of age **or has served in the armed services**, the possession of a high school equivalency certificate issued under section 102, subsection 14, shall be conclusive proof of eligibility for consideration for a scholarship as required by subsection 2. No applicant's eligibility for, nor the award of any scholarship to any eligible applicant, nor the denial of any scholarship award to any eligible applicant shall in any way be influenced by considerations of an applicant's race, creed, sex, color, national origin, ancestry or the political affiliation, or lack of it, of any applicant or of his family or relatives, by blood or law.

Sec. 6. R. S., T. 20, § 2220, amended. The 3rd and 4th sentences of section 2220 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, are amended to read as follows:

Upon proof of such admission furnished to the commissioner, the certificate of eligibility for scholarship award shall be ~~exchanged for~~ **replaced by** a certificate of scholarship award which shall name the institution to which the applicant has been admitted and such award shall be effective as respects the institution named and none other. No payment of scholarship awards shall be made ~~to or~~ on behalf of the holder of any scholarship award until the institution named in the certificate of scholarship award shall have confirmed in writing directly to the commissioner that the holder actually has entered upon the course of studies at the said institution.

Sec. 7. R. S., T. 20, § 2220, amended. The first sentence of the 3rd paragraph of section 2220 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

After once having been awarded a scholarship under this chapter, a scholarship holder shall not be required to compete for annual renewals of eligibility but he shall be required annually to file ~~a financial statements~~ **statement on a form provided by the board** for the purpose of allowing the State Scholarship Board to determine whether there has been a change in his financial condition which would warrant adjustment of the annual grant of assistance, which grant may be adjusted upward or downward as revealed by an analysis of the statement, but no test other than financial need shall be the basis for any such adjustment.

Sec. 8. R. S., T. 20, § 2221, amended. Section 2221 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2221. Courses of study

A person entitled to a scholarship shall not be restricted as to choice of the ~~college~~ **college approved institution of higher education** which he desires to attend or the course of study which he proposes to pursue; provided that no such scholarship shall include professional instruction in theology, or in any graduate courses following the receiving of a bachelor's degree; and provided that the ~~college~~ **college approved institution of higher education** selected by the person entitled to such scholarship is situated within the State of Maine and is incorporated and authorized under the laws of this State and the rules of the State Board of Education ~~to confer degrees~~, except that a holder of a scholarship award may attend a college not located in the State of Maine to pursue an undergraduate course of study not available at a college within the State of Maine. The term "college" as used in this section includes universities, professional and technical schools and other institutions for higher education authorized to confer degrees, requiring 4 years of undergraduate study to obtain a degree and approved by the State Board of Education, also "junior college" providing the person entitled to the scholarship pursues a course therein approved by the Commissioner of Education ~~for 2 years of credit toward a degree in a college authorized by the Legislature to confer degrees~~; also vocational schools provided the person entitled to the scholarship pursues a course therein approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Sec. 9. R. S., T. 20, § 2223, amended. Section 2223 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2223. Payment of scholarship awards

Payment of scholarship awards shall be made ~~to or~~ on behalf of a scholarship holder ~~in each term for that portion of the annual award which is determined by dividing the annual award by the number of terms regularly constituting the academic year in the institution which the scholarship holder attends. Payments shall be made for each term directly to the institution which the student is attending in proportionate amounts within 45 days after the beginning of each term but only after the institution has confirmed to the Commissioner of Education in writing the enrollment of the holder for that term. Payments shall be made on warrants drawn by the State Controller on the Treasurer of State based upon vouchers submitted with the approval of the Commissioner of Education. Such vouchers shall show that the person named therein is entitled to receive the sum specified, either directly or for his benefit. At the option of the scholarship holder, evidenced by a written request therefor filed with the commissioner, the holder may direct that any payment of scholarship assistance be made directly to the institution which he is attending.~~ A person who completed the requirements for a state scholarship immediately prior to the actual award of scholarships and who, in the interim, entered upon a course of study in an institution of higher education may, upon his application, have such certificate of scholarship award become effective at the time when he began his studies at such institution.

Sec. 10. R. S., T. 20, § 2224, amended. The 2nd paragraph of section 2224 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 443 of the public laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

In determining the scholastic aptitude or achievement **or need** of applicants, the Commissioner of Education is authorized to contract with any recognized testing service for test scores and relative standings and the Legislature shall appropriate such sums as it may find necessary for the payment of contractual relations incurred under the authority of this section.