

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)

ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1091

H. P. 849

House of Representatives, February 27, 1969

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hardy of Hope.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-NINE

AN ACT Creating the Maine Sesquicentennial Scholarship Fund.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, many young men and women of the State of Maine who possess both a high degree of intelligence and moral character, are deprived of post secondary school education solely because of a lack of financial aid being made available for their use; and

Whereas, the State of Maine in observance and celebration of its 150th anniversary of its formation as a state, recognizes that the well-being and education of its native sons and daughters is of vital importance to the perpetuation and growth of the State of Maine as an independent and free state; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Definitions.

1. Board. "Board" shall mean the Maine Sesquicentennial Scholarship Board.

2. College. "College, university or vocational technical institute." These terms shall be interpreted broadly to include a wide variety of post-secondary institutions both within and without the State of Maine. The board shall have the sole authority to determine whether a particular institution for which application for enrollment is sought is a college, university or vocational technical institute.

3. Student. "Student" means any person less than 21 years of age who has been a resident of this State for at least 12 months prior to application and who applies for a scholarship under this Act. After enrollment or matriculation in a college, university or vocational technical institute, a student may attain the age of 21 years and continue to be eligible to receive scholarship aid. "Student" includes any person who is the recipient of scholarship aid under the terms of this Act.

Sec. 2. Maine Sesquicentennial Scholarship Fund established. There is established the Maine Sesquicentennial Scholarship Fund in observance and celebration of the 150th anniversary of the State of Maine, to give financial aid in the form of scholarships to needy and worthy young men and women under the age of 21 years, who are residents of the State of Maine, to enable them to obtain post secondary school education in an approved college, university or vocational technical institute of their choice.

Sec. 3. Maine Sesquicentennial Scholarship Board. The Governor shall appoint a Maine Sesquicentennial Board to consist of 3 persons appointed from among the members currently serving on the State Board of Education. The members shall be appointed for terms of 5 years. The members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 4. Administration of scholarship funds. The board shall administer the scholarship fund and shall promulgate and publish policies governing the application for and distribution of scholarship funds. The board shall have the power to approve all scholarship funds to be granted to applicants. The board shall have authority to perform all other acts necessary for the administration of the scholarship program.

1. Committees. The board may appoint committees of qualified persons in the field of education to assist in the evaluation of prospective applicants.

2. Employees. The Commissioner of Education shall designate certain employees of the Department of Education to work temporarily under the supervision of the board to assist in the implementation and carrying out of the scholarship program.

3. Standards. The board shall establish reasonable standards which students must maintain in order to continue to receive scholarship aid. Failure of a student to maintain standards established by the board may result in the loss of scholarship aid.

Sec. 5. Application for scholarship aid. Any student under the age of 21 years who has been a resident of this State for at least 12 months immediately prior to application and who has been accepted for study on a full-

time basis at any college, university or vocational technical institute, which has been approved or accredited by this State, another state or a nationally recognized accrediting agency, shall be eligible to apply for scholarship aid under this Act.

Sec. 6. Amount of scholarship grants. There shall be granted to worthy and needy young men and women in the State of Maine who wish to pursue a full-time course of study in a college or university, 100 full 4-year scholarships in the maximum amount of \$2,500 per year per student. In the event that the cost of attendance per year is less than \$2,500 at any particular college or university in which a student is enrolled, the board may grant a lesser amount, and the difference in amount shall revert to the principal of the scholarship fund to be used by the board in its discretion to provide scholarship aid to any needy young men or women in the State of Maine.

There shall be granted to worthy and needy young men and women in the State of Maine, who wish to pursue a full-time course of study in a vocational technical institute, 50 full 2-year scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 per year per student. In the event that the cost of attendance per year is less than \$1,000 at any particular vocational technical institute in which a student has enrolled, the board may grant a lesser amount, and the difference in amount shall revert to the principal of the scholarship fund to be used by the board in its discretion to provide scholarship aid to any needy young men or women in the State of Maine.

Sec. 7. Qualifications for scholarships. The board shall take into consideration in granting scholarships financial need and character as well as academic achievements. Students may receive scholarships according to this criteria not to exceed \$2,500 per year in the case of college or university students and \$1,000 per year in the case of students at vocational technical institutes. The scholarships awarded shall be disbursed by the accepting institution on behalf of the student for tuition, fees, books, board or any legitimate educational expense.

Sec. 8. Rules and regulations. The board may prescribe rules and regulations to carry out this Act.

Sec. 9. Publicity campaign. The Department of Education shall make its resources available to the board in order that the board carry out a comprehensive publicity campaign throughout the State of Maine to properly apprise eligible young men and women of the scholarships available under this Act.

Sec. 10. Applicability. Scholarships shall be awarded to students who seek enrollment in a college, university or vocational technical institute, commencing in the calendar year 1970-1971 and succeeding years until the scholarship fund is depleted. The funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall not lapse but shall constitute continuous carrying account until the purposes of this Act are accomplished.

Sec. 11. Scholarship fund. There is established a scholarship fund which shall be used by the board as a nonlapsing fund for carrying out this Act.

The fund shall be in the amount of \$325,000. To this sum shall be charged all scholarship grants and any necessary expenses of the board in connection with this Act. The amount of \$300,000 of said fund shall be placed in a separate account and used only for scholarship grants.

Sec. 12. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Sesquicentennial Scholarship Board the sum of \$325,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970 to carry out the purposes of this Act. Any balance remaining at June 30, 1970 shall not lapse but shall constitute a continuous carrying account until the purposes of this Act are accomplished. The breakdown shall be as follows:

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|--|----------------|
| | 1969-70 |
| MAINE SESQUICENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD | |
| All Other | \$325,000 |

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act will take effect when approved.