

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1225

H. P. 927

House of Representatives, March 1, 1973

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Mr. Haskell of Houlton, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Haskell of Houlton.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Establishing a State Tuition Equalization Fund for Maine Students
Attending Maine Private Institutions of Higher Education.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, c. 306, additional. Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 306, to read as follows:

CHAPTER 306

TUITION EQUALIZATION FUND

§ 2311. Tuition equalization fund

A fund is hereby appropriated to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to establish a State Tuition Equalization Fund to be distributed to Maine high school graduates who are attending full-time eligible Maine private institutions of higher education, under regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services. Students eligible for grants are those who demonstrate substantial need and whose family income, measured by taxable income for federal income tax purposes, is less than \$13,000. Individual grants shall not exceed \$750 per school year.

§ 2312. Restrictions

The Tuition Equalization Program shall be restricted in the first school year following enactment of this legislation to those in the first 2 years of a program; to students in the first 3 years during the 2nd year following enactment of this legislation; and all eligible students in subsequent years.

§ 2313. Selection

The selection of grant recipients shall be made with the cooperation of the Higher Education Council.

§ 2314. Definition

An eligible private institution of higher education is an institution meeting the requirements as set forth in the Higher Education Act of 1965, section 1201, as amended, (29 USC 1141) and the Higher Education Act of 1965, section 491, as amended, (20 USC 1088) and such regulations and guidelines promulgated by the United States Commissioner of Education pursuant to those provisions of federal law and published in the Federal Register.

Sec. 2. Availability of appropriation. Sums appropriated pursuant to section 3 and sums appropriated by chapter 181 of the private and special laws of 1971 shall remain available for payment to institutions for the award of student grants until the end of the fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year for which sums were appropriated.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. In order to provide for necessary expenditures to carry out this program, there is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services the sum of \$325,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974 and the sum of \$440,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to make the benefits of higher education available to qualified Maine students by making spaces in the State's private colleges economically attainable for such students.

It is also the intent of this bill to provide some relief from (1) overcrowding in the public institutions, (2) a greater tax burden if these students attend public institutions and (3) the need to build new facilities for higher education in Maine.

This bill further recognizes that the difference in cost to the student between private and public higher education has placed one of Maine's greatest assets in jeopardy. An indirect contribution to the retention of the State's private colleges is also one of the purposes of this bill.