

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 327

H. P. 258

House of Representatives, February 9, 1977

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and 1,800 copies ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Fenlason of Danforth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Amend the State Tuition Equalization Fund.

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

20 MRSA § 2311, last 2 sentences, as amended by PL 1975, c. 510, § 25, are further amended to read:

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~~ \$17,000. Individual grants shall not exceed ~~\$900~~ \$1,000 per school year.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The State Tuition Equalization Program (STEP) has proven its worth over the 4 years of its existence. Inflation has now taken its toll and the inflation rate has driven the value of a \$13,000 annual wage to \$17,686, so a \$17,000 limit only keeps the student even. Also, the cost of attendance at a post-secondary institution has increased comparably, so the \$100 extra per student becomes more realistic. The proposed amendments to this existing legislation increases the net taxable income from \$13,000 to \$17,000, as well as it increases the eligible grant from \$900 to \$1,000. This proposed legislation will provide increased access of our Maine students to attend a Maine private college of their choice.