

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1732

H. P. 1622

Office of the Clerk of the House

Governor's Bill. Reference to the Committee on Education suggested.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mr. Rolde of York.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Amend the Laws Relating to the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 2371, sub-§ 5, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 538, § 1, is amended to read:

5. Institution of higher education. "Institution of higher education" shall mean an institution of higher education located within Maine, **or within another state with which the State of Maine has a reciprocal agreement**, and which meets the requirements of, and conforms to, the definitions contained in section 1201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 1141, and section 491 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1088, and such regulations, guidelines and procedures as promulgated by the United States Commissioner of Education and published in the Federal Register pursuant to these sections of federal law.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 2372, sub-§ 1, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 538, § 1, is amended to read:

There is established a program, to be administered by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, of state student incentive scholarships to residents of the State of Maine, **as determined under rules and regulations adopted by the commissioner in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 21**, who:

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 2372, sub-§ 1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 583, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. Have graduated from an approved secondary school or successfully completed a general education development examination;

Sec. 4. 20 MRSA § 2372, sub-§ 1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 538, § 1, is amended to read:

B. Have been accepted for enrollment as undergraduates in, or are in good standing as undergraduates at, institutions of higher education in Maine, according to the prescribed standards, regulations and practices of such institutions and have met the required academic standards for admission;

Sec. 5. 20 MRSA § 2372, sub-§ 2, ¶A, sub-¶ (1), as enacted by PL 1977, c. 538, § 1, is amended to read:

(1) The sum of the student's expected family contribution and the student's basic grant, if any, received under the Federal Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program, 20 U.S.C. 1070a, for the academic year for which the student is applying for a state student incentive scholarship ~~plus~~. **The Department may also consider the contributions of the students and the student's family in the form of self-help such as loans and extra work, or in the form of merit scholarships, veteran's benefits or other resources which the student has obtained by merit, previous service or similar personal efforts or could reasonably be required to obtain; and**

Sec. 6. 20 MRSA § 2372, sub-§ 2, ¶A, sub-¶ (2), as enacted by PL 1977, c. 538, § 1, is amended to read:

(2) The actual cost-of-attendance at the institution of higher education at which the student has been accepted for enrollment, or at which the student is in good standing ~~except that \$4,800 shall be the maximum allowable cost of attendance for any academic year for the purposes of determining the student's need for a state student incentive scholarship.~~

Sec. 7. 20 MRSA § 2373, sub-§ 2, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 538, § 1, is amended to read:

The department shall develop such guidelines, rules, regulations, procedures, schedules and forms as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this program, **including the development and finalizing of reciprocal agreements with other states**, except that to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the need for the state control of this program, the department shall use or follow the guidelines, rules, regulations, procedures, forms and schedules set forth by U.S. Commissioner of Education for the administration of the Federal Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program, Title IV, Part A, Subpart I of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1070a, in the administration of the state student incentive scholarship program.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purposes of this bill are to:

1. Allow the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to consider as eligible those institutions within states with which the State of Maine may have a reciprocal agreement;
2. Allow the commissioner to establish rules and regulations for determining residency and other student eligibility criteria;
3. Eliminate confusion in determining the educational eligibility of Maine residents;
4. Provide consistency between sections 1 and 7 as all relate to the establishment and implementation of reciprocal agreements;
5. Provide an opportunity for the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to effect a more equitable appraisal of student assets;
6. Allow the use of actual cost of attendance figures thereby providing an opportunity for the program to more adequately reflect the ever increasing costs of all post-secondary institutions; and
7. Provide the Department of Educational and Cultural Services the authority to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states.