

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 681

(Filing No. H-176)

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
112TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 478, L.D. 681,
Bill, "AN ACT Establishing Educational Scholarships
for Children of Firefighters and Police Officers who
Die in the Performance of Their Duty."

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Amend the bill by striking out all of the title
and inserting in its place the following:

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'AN ACT Establishing a Tuition Waiver Program at
State Institutions for Children of Firefighters and
Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty.'

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Further amend the bill by striking everything af-
ter the enacting clause and before the statement of
fact and inserting in its place the following:

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'20-A MRSA c. 429 is enacted to read:

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CHAPTER 429

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TUITION WAIVER AT STATE POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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§12551. Purpose

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In recognition of the indispensable public ser-
vice role which firefighters and law enforcement of-
ficers play in the well-being of the people of this
State, it is the purpose of this chapter to provide
for assistance to the children of firefighters and
law enforcement officers who are killed in the line
of duty so that these children may have the opportu-
nity to pursue a degree at one of the state
post-secondary educational institutions.

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§12552. Definitions

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1 As used in this chapter, unless the context oth-
2 erwise indicates, the following terms have the fol-
3 lowing meanings.

4 1. Firefighter. "Firefighter" means a person
5 who is an active member of a municipal fire depart-
6 ment or a volunteer firefighters' association and who
7 aids in the extinguishing of fires, regardless of
8 whether he has administrative or other duties as a
9 member of the department or association.

10 2. Law enforcement officer. "Law enforcement
11 officer" means an active state police officer, munic-
12 ipal police officer, county sheriff or deputy sher-
13 iff.

14 3. State post-secondary educational institu-
15 tion. "Post-secondary educational institution" means
16 the University of Maine, the Maine Maritime Academy
17 and the vocational-technical institutes.

18 §12553. Tuition waiver

19 The child of a firefighter or law enforcement of-
20 ficer who has been killed or who has received an in-
21 jury which results in death during performance of his
22 duties may attend, as provided in this section, any
23 state post-secondary educational institution free of
24 tuition charges.

25 1. Eligibility. The child of a firefighter or
26 law enforcement officer shall be eligible for tuition
27 waiver under this chapter if he is:

28 A. The natural or legally adopted child of a
29 firefighter or law enforcement officer;

30 B. Is less than 21 years old at the time of the
31 death of the parent who is a firefighter or law
32 enforcement officer;

33 C. A Maine resident;

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1 D. A high school graduate or has attained equiv-
2 alent certification; and

3 E. Accepted for admission to a state
4 post-secondary educational institution.

5 2. Limitation. The tuition waiver provided by
6 this chapter shall be limited to undergraduate degree
7 programs and shall be limited to not more than 5
8 years of full-time enrollment or its equivalent.

9 3. Continuation. The tuition waiver provided by
10 this chapter shall be awarded on a yearly basis and
11 shall continue to be available, if the child is oth-
12 erwise eligible under this section, as long as the
13 child remains in good academic standing at a state
14 institution.

15 §12554. Administration

16 1. Application. A person desiring tuition waiv-
17 er under this chapter may apply to the Department of
18 Educational and Cultural Services for determination
19 of eligibility. Application shall be on forms and in
20 a manner prescribed by rule of the department.

21 2. Decision. The department shall determine
22 whether an applicant is eligible and notify the ap-
23 plicant. The department shall also notify the state
24 post-secondary educational institution at which the
25 person is accepted of the eligibility of that child
26 for tuition waiver. Unless notified by the depart-
27 ment of a change in the student's eligibility, the
28 institution shall not bill an eligible student for
29 tuition during that school year.

30 3. Rules. The department shall adopt rules in
31 accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure
32 Act, Title 5, chapter 375, which are necessary for
33 the implementation of this chapter.

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1 FISCAL NOTE

2 This bill may result in the loss of General Fund
3 revenues from the waiver of tuition at the
4 vocational-technical institutes. There may also be
5 an increase in the future appropriation requests from
6 the University of Maine and the Maine Maritime Academy
7 as a result of enactment of this bill.'

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

9 The purpose of this amendment is to provide for
10 waiver of tuition for children of firefighters and
11 law enforcement officers who are killed in the line
12 of duty. Tuition will be waived for eligible persons
13 who attend the University of Maine, the Maine Maritime
14 Academy and the state vocational-technical institutes.
15 Costs other than tuition will continue to
16 be borne by the student and his or her family.

17 3723052085

Reported by the Committee on Education
Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the
Clerk of the House

5/22/85

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