

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1138

H.P. 847 House of Representatives, April 7, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative BOST of Orono.

Cosponsored by Representatives GOULD of Greenville,
PARADIS of Frenchville and KILKELLY of Wiscasset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Increase Educational Opportunity
2 for Economically and Educationally
3 Disadvantaged Residents.
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 430 is enacted to read:

8 CHAPTER 430

9 SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS FROM

10 DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS

11 §12651. Program authority, authorization of appro-
12 priations

1 The commissioner shall, in accordance with the
2 provisions of this chapter, carry out a program of
3 making grants and contracts designed to identify
4 qualified individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds
5 for a program of post-secondary education, to provide
6 special services for those students who are pursuing
7 programs of post-secondary education.

8 1. Commissioner authorized. For the purposes
9 described in this section, the commissioner is autho-
10 rized to make grants to, and contracts with, public
11 and private nonprofit institutions of higher educa-
12 tion, for planning, developing or carrying out one or
13 more of the services assisted under this chapter.

14 2. Considerations. In making grants and con-
15 tracts under this chapter, the commissioner shall
16 consider the prior experience of service delivery un-
17 der the particular program for which funds are sought
18 by each applicant.

19 3. Definitions. As used in this chapter unless
20 the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
21 have the following meanings.

22 A. "Developmental courses" means academic skill
23 development courses which will not earn partici-
24 pants degree credits, but will meet admission re-
25 quirements for degree programs.

26 B. "First generation college student" means a
27 person neither of whose parents completed a bac-
28 calaureate degree.

29 C. "Low-income individual" means an individual
30 from a family whose taxable income for the pre-
31 ceding year did not exceed 150% of an amount
32 equal to the poverty level determined by using
33 criteria of poverty established by the Bureau of
34 the Census.

35 4. Eligible veteran. No individual who is an
36 eligible veteran, as that term is defined by the
37 United States Code, Title 38, Section 1652(a), may be
38 deemed ineligible to participate in any program under
39 this chapter by reason of that individual's age.

1 §12652. Project REACH

2 The commissioner shall carry out a program enti-
3 ttled "Raising Educational Aspirations and Choices in
4 Higher Education," to be known as project REACH,
5 which shall be designed to generate skills and moti-
6 vation necessary for success in education beyond high
7 school.

8 Project REACH may provide services such as:

9 1. Instruction. Instruction in reading, writ-
10 ing, study skills, mathematics and other subjects
11 necessary for success beyond high school;

12 2. Personal counseling. Personal counseling, as
13 it relates to post-secondary educational aspirations;

14 3. Academic advice. Academic advice and assist-
15 ance in course selection, improving academic perform-
16 ance and preparation for and retention in a
17 post-secondary educational situation;

18 4. Tutorial services. Tutorial services;

19 5. Exposure to activities. Exposure to cultural
20 events, academic programs and other activities not
21 usually available to disadvantaged state residents;

22 6. Career counseling. Activities designed to
23 acquaint participants in the project with the range
24 of career and educational options available to them;
25 and

26 7. Special programs. Programs and activities as
27 described in subsections 1 to 6 which are specially
28 designed for students of limited English proficiency.

29 §12653. Submission of proposals

30 Maine public and private, nonprofit institutions
31 of higher education desiring to participate in
32 Project REACH shall submit a proposal to the Depart-
33 ment of Educational and Cultural Services. The de-
34 partment shall establish program guidelines, adminis-
35 ter funds, approve proposals and evaluate program
36 services and outcomes.

1 §12654. Approval of applications

2 1. Participants. In approving applications for
3 REACH projects under this chapter for any fiscal year
4 the commissioner shall require:

5 A. An assurance that not less than 2/3 of the
6 participants in the project proposed to be car-
7 ried out under any application be low-income in-
8 dividuals who are first generation college stu-
9 dents or physically handicapped;

10 B. An assurance that the remaining youths par-
11 ticipating in the project proposed to be carried
12 out under any application be either low-income
13 individuals or be first generation college stu-
14 dents or physically handicapped; and

15 C. That there be determination, with respect to
16 each participant in that project, that the par-
17 ticipant has a need for academic support in order
18 to pursue successfully a program of education be-
19 yond high school.

20 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are
21 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
22 purposes of this Act.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
23		
24	<u>EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL</u>	
25	<u>SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
26	Project REACH	
27	All Other	\$750,000
		\$750,000

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 Among the population of Maine, there currently
3 exists extraordinarily low post-secondary educational
4 aspirations. Ninety-two percent of the State's popu-
5 lation does not possess a college degree. In part
6 this is explained by the fact that over 26% of the
7 population lives below 150% of the federal poverty
8 threshold. In addition, the majority of rural high
9 schools cannot offer a full precollege curriculum and
10 consequently, a large majority of disadvantaged Maine
11 high school youth are not equipped with the academic
12 tools to successfully compete in college, university
13 and vocational-technical institute freshman level
14 courses. In particular, educationally, culturally
15 and financially disadvantaged students are signifi-
16 cantly handicapped in their efforts to attain their
17 educational goals. For example, first generation
18 college students from Maine are handicapped by the
19 lack of college or university experience on the part
20 of their parents; physically handicapped students
21 have additional physical difficulties attaining their
22 higher educational goals. As a result, students who
23 are educationally, culturally and financially disad-
24 vantaged need additional support and encouragement to
25 attain professional and graduate education.
26 Nontraditional students as well need additional sup-
27 port to gain access and to attain their educational
28 goals.

29 As the employment base in Maine is changing to a
30 more service and technical orientation, there is need
31 for additional educational opportunities for many
32 disadvantaged Maine residents. Upward Bound, Talent
33 Search and Student Support Services provide support
34 services that enhance the prospects of educational
35 excellence for marginally prepared Maine students.
36 These programs have assisted many Maine residents in
37 gaining access to the State's colleges and universi-
38 ties. In these programs, there exists a proven model
39 for assisting Maine's colleges, universities and voc-
40 ational-technical institutes. Since federal support

1 for these programs in Maine has declined or remained
2 at constant levels since 1980, fewer students have
3 been served each year by these programs. This bill
4 seeks to remedy this situation by creating project
5 REACH.

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