

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1453, L.D. 2044, Bill, "An Act to Promote Access to Public Higher Education"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 208 is repealed.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA c. 208-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 208-A

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

§4771. Eligible institution; defined

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible institution" means the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the Maine Maritime Academy.

§4772. Postsecondary courses; student eligibility

A secondary school student may be eligible to receive state subsidy for postsecondary courses, as specified in section 4775, if the following requirements are satisfied:

1. Availability. The eligible institution has space available for the secondary school student;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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2. Academic standing. The student is maintaining a minimum secondary school grade point average of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0, or the equivalent of a "B" average, as determined by the school unit;

3. Course prerequisites. The eligible institution has determined that the student has satisfactorily completed all course prerequisites;

4. School approval. The school unit approves; and

5. Parental approval. The student's parent approves.

**§4773. Dissemination of information**

School administrative units shall provide general information concerning postsecondary education options available to parents and students.

**§4774. Credits**

1. High school credit. A school administrative unit may grant academic credit toward a high school diploma to a student who successfully completes a course under this chapter.

2. Postsecondary credit. The eligible institution shall grant full credit to any student who successfully completes a course at the eligible institution under this chapter. The course must apply to graduation requirements at the eligible institution in which it was taken or be transferable to another eligible institution on an equal basis with a course taken by any other student at the eligible institution.

**§4775. Payment; appropriations**

The department shall pay 50% of the in-state tuition for the first 3 credit hours taken each semester by a student at an eligible institution and up to 6 credit hours per academic year. The eligible institution may not make any additional tuition charges for the course but may impose fees and charges, other than tuition, that are ordinarily imposed on students not covered by this chapter. Funds appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter must be in addition to the customary and ongoing amounts appropriated for general purpose aid for local schools.

**Sec. 3. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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1998-99

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**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

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**Support Systems**

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All Other

\$75,000

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Provides funds to the Department of Education to enable 250 secondary school students per semester to take postsecondary courses at eligible institutions.'

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Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

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**FISCAL NOTE**

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1998-99

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**APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

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General Fund

\$75,000

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This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$75,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 for the Department of Education to provide for 50% of the tuition costs for certain high school students taking courses at the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and Maine Maritime Academy.

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The University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and Maine Maritime Academy will incur some additional costs to waive 50% of the tuition costs for the students. These costs can be absorbed within those institutions' existing budgeted resources.'

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**SUMMARY**

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This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment permits eligible secondary school students to receive state subsidy for up to 3 credit hours per semester at the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the Maine Maritime Academy.

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The amendment also establishes the following eligibility requirements for secondary school students: the eligible institution must have space available, the student must have the

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1453, L.D. 2044

2 equivalent of a "B" average and must have satisfactorily  
3 completed all course prerequisites, and the student's  
4 participation is subject to approval by both the school unit and  
5 the student's parent.

6 The amendment further provides that the Department of  
7 Education shall pay 50% of the in-state tuition for the first 3  
8 credit hours taken each semester and up to 6 credit hours taken  
9 per academic year. Funds appropriated to the department to carry  
10 out the purposes of this Act must be in addition to the customary  
11 and ongoing amounts appropriated for general purpose aid for  
12 local schools. A General Fund appropriation of \$75,000 will  
13 enable 250 secondary school students per semester to take  
14 postsecondary courses under this Act.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**