

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 364

H.P. 260

House of Representatives, January 14, 1999

An Act to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: O'NEAL of Limestone, O'NEIL of Saco, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, STEVENS of Orono, WHEELER of Eliot, Senator: KONTOS of Cumberland.

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

2

Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
4 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

6

1999-00

8

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

10

Learning Systems

12

All Other

\$1,000,000

14

Provides funds to be distributed to public
14 secondary schools to hire college guidance
16 counselors. The primary focus of the
college guidance counselors will be to
18 provide postsecondary education information
to high school students that includes areas
20 such as necessary secondary school courses
and college financial aid options and
22 availability. The Department of Education
may adopt routine technical rules as defined
24 in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5,
chapter 375, subchapter II-A to implement
26 this college guidance program.

28

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TOTAL**

\$1,000,000

30

**MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM,
32 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**

34

**Maine Technical College System -
Board of Trustees**

36

All Other

\$250,000

38

Provides funds to develop student retention
40 programs to reduce college drop-out rates.

42

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
44 MAINE TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
TOTAL**

\$250,000

46

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM,
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**

48

Educational and General Activities -

University of Maine System

2

All Other \$250,000

4

Provides funds to develop student retention programs to reduce college drop-out rates.

6

**8 Educational and General Activities -
University of Maine System**

10

All Other \$6,000,000

12

Provides funds to establish a special financing fund as a last resort mechanism to supplement existing financial aid. Funds may be used to assist students with the cost of tuition, room and board or the purchase of textbooks.

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**20 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MAINE SYSTEM**

22

TOTAL \$6,250,000

24

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS \$7,500,000

26

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SUMMARY

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This bill provides a total of \$7,500,000 in General Fund appropriations to increase postsecondary educational opportunities for Maine students. First, it provides \$1,000,000 to the Department of Education to develop a program to assist Maine high schools to hire college guidance counselors. The primary focus of the counselors will be to provide postsecondary education advice and information.

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Second, the bill provides \$250,000 to each University of Maine System and the Maine Technical College System for the development of student retention programs.

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Finally, the bill provides a General Fund appropriation of \$6,000,000 to the University of Maine System to create a special financing fund as a last-resort mechanism to supplement existing financial aid.

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