

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.D.S.

L.D. 708

DATE: 4-15-99

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 501, L.D. 708, Bill, "An Act to Provide Educational Opportunities for Persons Who Resided in Foster Care as Children"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~§12571.~~" by inserting after subsection 3 the following:

'4. Unmet need. "Unmet need" means the difference between the total cost of attendance for an academic year at a state postsecondary educational institution and the total of all sources of financial assistance, including loans, grants, work-study programs, federal funds provided through the Department of Human Services for the education of foster children and all other available sources.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~§12572.~~" by striking out all of the first indented paragraph (page 1, lines 29 to 33 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'Any person who was in the custody of the Department of Human Services and resided in foster care at the time that person graduated from high school or successfully completed a general educational development examination or its equivalent under section 257 may attend, as provided in this section, any state postsecondary educational institution free of tuition charges.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~§12572.~~" in subsection 1 by striking out all of paragraph B (page 1, lines 40 and 41 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



**SUMMARY**

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This amendment clarifies the eligibility criteria and limitation provisions of tuition waivers established in the original bill. This amendment accomplishes the following.

1. It eliminates the age criterion as a basis for eligibility and clarifies that any person who was in the custody of the Department of Human Services and resided in foster care at the time that person graduated from high school or successfully completed a general educational development examination or its equivalent is eligible for a tuition waiver.

2. It permits a tuition waiver to be available to a student enrolled in a certificate program of at least one year, as well as for a student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program.

3. It defines "unmet need" and limits the amount of the tuition waiver available to an eligible person to the difference between the total cost of attendance at the postsecondary educational institution and the total of all sources of financial assistance, including federal funds provided through the Department of Human Services.

4. It limits the scope of the tuition waiver program by limiting it to 25 eligible persons per year.

This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.