

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

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H.P. 501

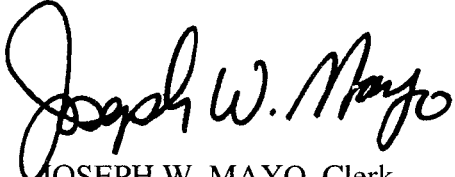
House of Representatives, January 26, 1999

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**An Act to Provide Educational Opportunities for Persons Who Resided  
in Foster Care as Children.**

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

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: DAVIDSON of Brunswick, GREEN of Monmouth, KANE of Saco, McKEE of Wayne, RICHARD of Madison, SHIAH of Bowdoinham, WATSON of Farmingdale.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 429-A is enacted to read:**

6 **CHAPTER 429-A**

8 **TUITION WAIVER AT STATE POSTSECONDARY**  
10 **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS WHO**  
12 **HAVE RESIDED IN FOSTER CARE**

14 **§12571. Definitions**

16 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
18 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

20 1. Authority. "Authority" means the Finance Authority of  
22 Maine.

24 2. Family foster home. "Family foster home" means the same  
26 as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 3.

28 3. State postsecondary educational institution.  
30 "Postsecondary educational institution" means the University of  
32 Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Technical  
34 College System.

36 **§12572. Tuition waiver**

38 Any person 17 or 18 years of age who, anytime during the  
40 previous 4 years, was in the custody of the Department of Human  
42 Services and resided in a foster family home for at least one  
44 full year may attend, as provided in this section, any state  
46 postsecondary educational institution free of tuition charges.

48 1. Eligibility of person. A person is eligible for a  
tuition waiver under this chapter if the person is:

A. A Maine resident;

B. A high school graduate or has attained equivalent  
certification; and

C. Accepted for admission to a state postsecondary  
educational institution.

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

2 3. Continuation. The tuition waiver provided by this  
3 chapter is awarded on a yearly basis and continues to be  
4 available, if the person is otherwise eligible under this  
5 section, as long as the person remains in good academic standing  
6 at a state postsecondary educational institution.

8 **§12573. Administration**

10 1. Application. A person desiring a tuition waiver under  
11 this chapter may apply to the authority for determination of  
12 eligibility. Application must be on forms and in a manner  
13 prescribed by rule of the authority. Rules adopted pursuant to  
14 this chapter are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine  
15 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter  
16 II-A.

18 2. Decision. The authority shall determine whether an  
19 applicant is eligible and notify the applicant. The authority  
20 shall also notify the state postsecondary educational institution  
21 at which the person is accepted of the eligibility of that person  
22 for a tuition waiver. Unless notified by the authority of a  
23 change in the student's eligibility, the institution may not bill  
24 an eligible student for tuition during that school year.

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill provides a tuition waiver at state postsecondary  
29 educational institutions for persons 17 or 18 years of age who  
30 have resided in foster care for at least one full year.