

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1707

H.P. 1197

House of Representatives, March 9, 1999

An Act to Extend Certain Survivor Benefits to the Spouses of Emergency Medical Services Providers.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BULL of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUMPS of China, DUGAY of Cherryfield, FULLER of
Manchester, McALEVEY of Waterboro, STANWOOD of Southwest Harbor, TUTTLE of
Sanford, Senators: MURRAY of Penobscot, PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12551, as amended by PL 1997, c. 160, §1, is further amended to read:

§12551. Purpose

In recognition of the indispensable public service role that firefighters ~~and~~, law enforcement officers and emergency medical services persons play in the well-being of the people of this State, it is the purpose of this chapter to provide for assistance to the children and ~~spouse~~ spouses of firefighters ~~and~~, law enforcement officers and emergency medical services persons who are killed in the line of duty so that these children and spouses may have the opportunity to pursue a degree at one of the state postsecondary educational institutions.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12552, sub-§5, is enacted to read:

5. Emergency medical services person. "Emergency medical services person" means a person licensed to provide emergency medical treatment under Title 32, chapter 2-B and is employed or affiliated with a municipality or nonprofit organization.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12553, first ¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 160, §3, is further amended to read:

The child or spouse of a firefighter ~~or~~, law enforcement officer or emergency medical services person who has been killed or who has received an injury during the performance of that firefighter's ~~or~~, law enforcement officer's or emergency medical services person's duties, which results in death, may attend, as provided in this section, any state postsecondary educational institution free of tuition charges.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12553, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1997, c. 160, §3, is further amended to read:

1. Eligibility of a child. The child of a firefighter ~~or~~, law enforcement officer or emergency medical services person is eligible for tuition waiver under this chapter if the child is:

A. The natural or legally adopted child of a firefighter ~~or~~, law enforcement officer or emergency medical services person;

B. Is less than 21 years old at the time of the death of the parent who is a firefighter ~~or~~, law enforcement officer or emergency medical services person;

2 C. A Maine resident;

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

6 E. Accepted for admission to a state postsecondary educational institution.

8
10 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12553, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 160, §3, is amended to read:

12 **1-A. Eligibility of a spouse.** The spouse of a firefighter
14 or, law enforcement officer or emergency medical services person
is eligible for tuition waiver under this chapter if the spouse
is:

16 A. Legally married to the firefighter or, law enforcement
18 officer or emergency medical services person at the time of
the firefighter's or, law enforcement officer's or emergency
20 medical services person's death;

22 B. A Maine resident;

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

26 D. Accepted for admission to a state postsecondary
28 educational institution.

30
32 **SUMMARY**

34 Current law provides a tuition waiver at a state
postsecondary educational institution for a child or spouse of a
36 firefighter or law enforcement officer who has been killed in the
line of duty. This bill extends the tuition waiver to a child or
spouse of an emergency medical services person who has been
38 killed in the line of duty. An emergency medical services person
is a person licensed to perform emergency medical treatment
40 pursuant to the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982.