

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1753

H.P. 1224

House of Representatives, March 9, 1999

**An Act to Require Noncustodial Parents to Contribute to the Higher Education of Their Children.**

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MARVIN of Cape Elizabeth.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: MADORE of Augusta, SCHNEIDER of Durham.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §1653, sub-§8, ¶B-1** is enacted to read:

6 B-1. After January 1, 2000, if the court orders either  
8 parent to provide child support, the court order must  
10 require that parent to contribute to the child's  
12 postsecondary education costs. The order must specify  
14 either a set amount or a percentage of actual costs.

16 **Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §1653, sub-§12, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 1995,  
18 c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

20 A. Attains 18 years of age. For orders issued after  
22 January 1, 1990, if the child attains 18 years of age while  
24 attending secondary school as defined in Title 20-A, section  
26 1, the order remains in force until the child graduates,  
28 withdraws or is expelled from secondary school or attains 19  
30 years of age, whichever occurs first. For orders issued  
32 after January 1, 2000, the order remains in force until the  
34 child graduates, withdraws or is expelled from a  
36 postsecondary educational institution or attains 23 years of  
age, whichever occurs first;

38 **Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §1653, sub-§13,** as enacted by PL 1995, c.  
40 694, Pt. B, §2 and as affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

42 13. **Automatic adjustments.** The order of the court or  
44 hearing officer may include automatic adjustments to the amount  
of money paid for the support of a child when the child attains  
12 or 18 years of age; ~~or~~ when the child graduates, withdraws or  
is expelled from secondary school, attains 19 years of age or is  
otherwise emancipated, whichever occurs first; or when the child  
graduates, withdraws or is expelled from a postsecondary  
educational institution or attains 23 years of age, whichever  
occurs first.

### SUMMARY

This bill requires a parent paying child support to  
contribute to the costs of postsecondary education for the child  
until the child graduates, withdraws or is expelled, or turns 23  
years of age, whichever occurs first.