

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 301

H.P. 244

House of Representatives, January 28, 2003

### **An Act To Allow Access to State Postsecondary Educational Institutions to Maine Seniors**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ASH of Belfast.  
Cosponsored by Senator WESTON of Waldo and  
Representatives: BERRY of Belmont, DUGAY of Cherryfield, MARLEY of Portland, McKEE of Wayne, PARADIS of Frenchville, PELLON of Machias, SULLIVAN of Biddeford, THOMAS of Orono.

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

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

6 CHAPTER 429-B

8 TUITION WAIVER AT STATE POSTSECONDARY  
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR RESIDENTS  
65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

10 §12581. Definition

12 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
14 indicates, "state postsecondary educational institution" means  
16 the University of Maine System, Maine Maritime Academy and the  
Maine Technical College System.

18 §12582. Tuition waiver

20 Any person who meets the requirements of subsection 1 may  
22 audit courses in accordance with established institutional audit  
policy at any state postsecondary educational institution free of  
24 tuition charges, as provided in this section.

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

28 A. A Maine resident; and

30 B. Sixty-five years of age or older. A person is eligible  
32 at any time during the calendar year of that person's 65th  
birthday, regardless of the actual date during that calendar  
34 year.

36 2. Limitation. The tuition waiver provided by this chapter  
is limited to courses where space is available.

38 3. Continuation. The tuition waiver provided by this  
40 chapter is awarded on a yearly basis and continues to be  
available, if the person is otherwise eligible under this  
42 section, as long as the person remains in compliance with the  
state postsecondary educational institution's student conduct  
44 policies.

46 4. Revenue reduction. A state postsecondary educational  
institution shall absorb the reduction in tuition revenues that  
48 results from providing a tuition waiver to an eligible person  
under this chapter. The institution may not request additional  
50 General Fund appropriations from the Legislature to offset the  
reduction in tuition revenues.

2 **§12583. Administration**

4 **1. Application.** A person desiring a tuition waiver under  
6 this chapter may apply to the state postsecondary educational  
institution for determination of eligibility. Application must  
be on forms and in a manner prescribed by the institution.

8 **2. Decision.** A state postsecondary educational institution  
10 shall determine whether an applicant is eligible for a tuition  
waiver under this chapter and notify the applicant.

12 **SUMMARY**

14  
16 This bill allows residents 65 years of age and older to  
18 audit courses at any state postsecondary educational institution  
free of tuition charges. Individuals are allowed to audit only  
if space is available, as tuition-paying students have priority  
in the case of limited class size.