

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1469

H.P. 1032

House of Representatives, March 24, 2005

An Act To Create the Maine Merit Scholarship Program

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DUDLEY of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative BARSTOW of Gorham, Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1013, sub-§16,** as amended by PL 2001, c. 417,
§12, is further amended to read:

6 **16. Maine College Savings Program.** The Maine College
Savings Program, as established in Title 20-A, chapter 417-E; and

8 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1013, sub-§17,** as enacted by PL 2001, c. 417,
10 §13, is amended to read:

12 **17. Maine Dental Education Loan Program.** The Maine Dental
Education Loan Program as established in Title 20-A, chapter
14 426-A; and

16 **Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1013, sub-§18** is enacted to read:

18 **18. Maine Merit Scholarship Program.** The Maine Merit
Scholarship Program as established in Title 20-A, section 11681.

20 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA c. 419-E** is enacted to read:

22 **CHAPTER 419-E**

24 **MAINE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

26 **§11681. Maine Merit Scholarship Program**

28 The Maine Merit Scholarship Program is created and
30 established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and
32 control of the Finance Authority of Maine, referred to in this
34 section as "the authority." All revenue credited to this fund
36 must be distributed as merit-based scholarships for students who
38 have been admitted to the University of Maine System or the Maine
40 Community College System. The scholarships are for the full or
42 partial costs of tuition after subtracting any financial aid and
44 other awards or grants affecting tuition costs. The scholarships
46 may be awarded only to those students who are residents of the
48 State and attend Maine high schools at the time of application.
The scholarships may be awarded only to those students whose
annual family income is less than \$70,000 and who graduate in the
top 10% of their classes. A recipient of a scholarship under
this section must maintain a 3.0 grade point average while
attending university to remain in the program. The authority
shall adjust eligibility requirements to control expenditures or
increase participation in the program. The authority shall adopt
routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
subchapter 2-A.

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SUMMARY

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4 This bill establishes a merit-based scholarship program for
6 eligible students who graduate from high school in Maine and who
8 are admitted to one of the institutions of the University of
10 Maine System or the Maine Community College System. Students
12 must have graduated in the top 10% of their classes in high
14 school and family income must be less than \$70,000 a year. The
16 scholarships are for the full or partial cost of tuition less any
financial aid, awards or grants that reduce the level of
tuition. Students must retain a 3.0 grade point average in
college in order to remain in the program. This merit-based
scholarship program will be administered by the Finance Authority
of Maine. The Finance Authority of Maine, which is given routine
technical rule-making authority, may adjust these eligibility
requirements to control expenditures or increase participation in
the program.