

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1755

DATE: 2-1-06

(Filing No. S- 442)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
122ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 672, L.D. 1755, Bill, "An Act To Extend Tuition Waivers to Persons Who Have Resided in Subsidized Adoptive Care or Who Have Subsidized Guardians"

Amend the bill by incorporating the attached fiscal note.

SUMMARY

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.



122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1755

LR 3005(02)

An Act To Extend Tuition Waivers to Persons Who Have Resided in Subsidized Adoptive Care or Who Have Subsidized Guardians

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - Higher educational institutions

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill expands the number of people who would be eligible for tuition waivers at a state postsecondary educational institute. Because this legislation does not change the maximum number of new tuition waivers that may be granted each year pursuant to 20-A MRSA §12573 sub-§3, the potential fiscal liability to the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy remains unchanged.

However, expanding eligibility for tuition waivers will increase the actual costs incurred by the higher educational institutions because they are below the cap for such waivers. For example, the maximum number of tuition waivers that may be granted by the University of Maine System during one year is 140 waivers (28 waivers each year for no more than 5 years.) The actual number of waivers granted by the University in FY 2002-03 was 27 and 29 waivers were awarded FY 2003-04. In FY 2004-05, 43 waivers were granted at a cost of \$150,000. The University estimates the total cost if all 140 waivers were granted would be between \$500,000 and \$700,000, or approximately \$350,000 - \$550,000 more than the FY05 costs.

Current law requires that state postsecondary educational institutions absorb the reduction in tuition revenues and not request a General Fund appropriation to fund the cost of the tuition waivers. Given the current budgetary constraints, the ability of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to absorb the additional costs without impacting other programs or services currently in place can not be determined.