

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 384

H.P. 259

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

An Act To Allow Spouses and Children of Veterans Killed in the Line of Duty To Receive the State Tuition Waiver

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative VILLA of Harrison.
Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and
Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, CROCKETT of Bethel, DICKERSON of
Rockland, GILBERT of Jay, HAMANN of South Portland, McLEAN of Gorham, SAUCIER
of Presque Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12553**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 234, §§4 to 6, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§12553. Tuition waiver**

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

11 **1. Eligibility of a child.** The child of a firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~
12 emergency medical services person or member of the United States Armed Forces is
13 eligible for tuition waiver under this chapter if the child is:

- 14 A. The natural or legally adopted child of a firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~
15 emergency medical services person or member of the United States Armed Forces;
- 16 B. ~~Is less~~ Less than 21 years old at the time of the death of the parent who is a
17 firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~ emergency medical services person or
18 member of the United States Armed Forces;
- 19 C. A Maine resident;
- 20 D. A high school graduate or has attained equivalent certification; and
- 21 E. Accepted for admission to a state postsecondary educational institution.

22 **1-A. Eligibility of a spouse.** The spouse of a firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~
23 emergency medical services person or member of the United States Armed Forces is
24 eligible for tuition waiver under this chapter if the spouse is:

- 25 A. Legally married to the firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~ emergency medical
26 services person or member of the United States Armed Forces at the time of the
27 firefighter's, law enforcement officer's ~~or~~ emergency medical services person's or
28 member of the United States Armed Forces' death;
- 29 B. A Maine resident;
- 30 C. A high school graduate or has attained equivalent certification; and
- 31 D. Accepted for admission to a state postsecondary educational institution.

32 **2. Limitation.** The tuition waiver provided by this chapter is limited to
33 undergraduate degree programs and is limited to not more than 5 years of full-time
34 enrollment or its equivalent.

35 **3. Continuation.** The tuition waiver provided by this chapter is awarded on a yearly
36 basis and continues to be available, if the child or spouse is otherwise eligible under this

1 section, as long as the child or spouse remains in good academic standing at a state
2 institution.

3

SUMMARY

4 This bill provides tuition waivers to state postsecondary educational institutions for
5 spouses and children of members of the United States Armed Forces who have been
6 killed or injured while on duty. This tuition waiver is currently available for spouses and
7 children of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical services
8 persons who have been killed or injured while on duty.