

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 962

H.P. 676

House of Representatives, March 12, 2013

An Act To Increase Access to Higher Education

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHIPMAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and

Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, BEAUDOIN of Biddeford, BEAULIEU of Auburn, BEAVERS of South Berwick, BOLAND of Sanford, BOLDUC of Auburn, BRIGGS of Mexico, BROOKS of Winterport, CAMPBELL of Newfield, CAREY of Lewiston, CASAVANT of Biddeford, CHENETTE of Saco, COOPER of Yarmouth, CROCKETT of Bethel, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, DeCHANT of Bath, DEVIN of Newcastle, DICKERSON of Rockland, DION of Portland, DOAK of Columbia Falls, DUNPHY of Embden, ESPLING of New Gloucester, EVANGELOS of Friendship, FARNSWORTH of Portland, FITZPATRICK of Houlton, FREY of Bangor, GATTINE of Westbrook, GIDEON of Freeport, GILBERT of Jay, GRANT of Gardiner, GUERIN of Glenburn, HAMANN of South Portland, HARLOW of Portland, HARVELL of Farmington, HERBIG of Belfast, HICKMAN of Winthrop, HOBBS of Saco, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, JOHNSON of Eddington, JOHNSON of Greenville, JONES of Freedom, JORGENSEN of Portland, KAENRATH of South Portland, KENT of Woolwich, KESCHL of Belgrade, KINNEY of Limington, KNIGHT of Livermore Falls, KRUGER of Thomaston, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, KUSIAK of Fairfield, LIBBY of Waterboro, LIBBY of Lewiston, LONG of Sherman, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, MacDONALD of Boothbay, MASON of Topsham, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCABE of Skowhegan, McCLELLAN of Raymond, McGOWAN of York, MITCHELL of the Penobscot Nation, MOONEN of Portland, MORRISON of South Portland, NADEAU of Winslow, NELSON of Falmouth, NOON of Sanford, PEOPLES of Westbrook, PLANTE of Berwick, PRIEST of Brunswick, PRINGLE of Windham, RANKIN of Hiram, RUSSELL of Portland, SANBORN of Gorham, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SHAW of Standish, SHORT of Pittsfield, SOCTOMAH of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, STANLEY of Medway, STUCKEY of Portland, THERIAULT of Madawaska, TIPPING-SPITZ of Orono, TREAT of Hallowell, TURNER of Burlington, VEROW of Brewer, VILLA of Harrison, VOLK of Scarborough, WELSH of Rockport, WERTS of Auburn, WILLETTE of Mapleton, Senators: President ALFOND of Cumberland, BOYLE of Cumberland, CAIN of Penobscot, CLEVELAND of Androscoggin, CRAVEN of Androscoggin, CUSHING of Penobscot, GERZOFKY of Cumberland, GRATWICK of Penobscot, HASKELL of Cumberland, HILL of York, JACKSON of Aroostook, JOHNSON of Lincoln, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock, MAZUREK of Knox, PATRICK of Oxford, PLUMMER of Cumberland, SAVIELLO of Franklin, TUTTLE of York, VALENTINO of York, WOODBURY of Cumberland.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 **CHAPTER 419-E**

15 **MAINE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

16 **§11681. Maine Merit Scholarship Program**

17 The Maine Merit Scholarship Program is created and established as a nonlapsing
18 fund under the jurisdiction and control of the Finance Authority of Maine, referred to in
19 this section as "the authority." All revenue credited to this fund must be distributed as
20 merit-based scholarships for students who have been admitted to the University of Maine
21 System or the Maine Community College System. The scholarships are awarded
22 annually for the full or partial costs of tuition after subtracting any financial aid and other
23 awards or grants affecting tuition costs. The scholarships may be awarded only to those
24 students who are residents of the State and attending Maine high schools at the time of
25 application. The scholarships may be awarded only to those students whose annual
26 family income is less than \$30,000 and who graduate in the top 25% of their high school
27 classes. A recipient of a scholarship under this section must maintain an annual 3.0 grade
28 point average to remain eligible for the scholarship. The authority shall adjust eligibility
29 requirements to control expenditures or increase participation in the program. The
30 authority shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
31 2-A pursuant to this section.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill establishes a merit-based scholarship program for eligible students who
34 graduate from high school in Maine and who are admitted to one of the institutions of the
35 University of Maine System or the Maine Community College System. Students must
36 have graduated in the top 25% of their classes in high school and family income must be

1 less than \$30,000 a year. The scholarships are for the full or partial cost of tuition less
2 any financial aid, awards or grants that reduce the level of tuition. Students must
3 maintain a 3.0 grade point average in college in order to remain eligible for the
4 scholarship. This scholarship program will be administered by the Finance Authority of
5 Maine. The Finance Authority of Maine, which is given routine technical rule-making
6 authority, may adjust these eligibility requirements to control expenditures or increase
7 participation in the program.