

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1683

Date: 4/16/14

(Filing No. S-539)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
126TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1206, L.D. 1683, Bill, "An Act To Improve Degree and Career Attainment for Former Foster Children"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4010-C is enacted to read:

§4010-C. Transition grant program

The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a transition grant program to provide financial support to eligible individuals to pay for postsecondary education.

1. Age; enrollment in postsecondary education institution. In order to be eligible to participate in the program, an individual must be at least 21 years of age but less than 27 years of age, must have exited the voluntary extended care and support agreement with the State under section 4037-A at 21 years of age and must be enrolled in a postsecondary education institution.

2. Level of financial support. The transition grant is for postsecondary support up to the completion of an undergraduate degree. The level of financial support must be equivalent to the current voluntary extended foster care supports pursuant to section 4037-A. The department shall set duration limits, including a 6-year maximum for a 4-year degree, a 4-year maximum for a 2-year degree and other duration limits for other types of postsecondary education.

3. Postsecondary education navigator services. The program must include postsecondary education navigator services that provide transitional services and college support. The department shall determine the specifics of those services.

4. Advisory committee. The department shall establish an advisory committee to provide oversight of the implementation of the transition grant program. The advisory committee must include stakeholders in the postsecondary education field, the department's postsecondary education navigator under subsection 6, professionals who work with transitional foster youth, employers, representatives of the department and other interested parties. The department shall adopt rules to determine the membership, terms of office and voting procedures of the advisory committee and other specifics of the

1 advisory committee's governance structure. The advisory committee shall provide an
 2 annual report to the department and the joint standing committee of the Legislature
 3 having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

4 **5. Limit on number of individuals receiving transition grants.** No more than 40
 5 individuals at any one time may receive transition grants under this section.

6 **6. Postsecondary education navigator.** The department shall develop the roles and
 7 responsibilities for the postsecondary education navigator to provide transitional services
 8 and college student support for individuals pursuant to this section. The postsecondary
 9 education navigator shall provide data to the advisory committee.

10 The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant
 11 to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter
 12 2-A.

13 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 14 allocations are made.

15 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

16 **State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0139**

17 Initiative: Appropriates funds for a transitional grant program for individuals exiting the
 18 state foster care system at 21 years of age and actively pursuing postsecondary education.
 19 This appropriation is to provide the initial 20 grants beginning January 1, 2015.

20	GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
21	All Other	\$0	\$50,000
22			
23	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

24 **State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0139**

25 Initiative: Deappropriates funds on a one-time basis resulting from program savings.

26	GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
27	All Other	\$0	(\$50,000)
28			
29	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$50,000)</u>

30	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
31	DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)		
32	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2013-14	2014-15
33			
34	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
35		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS

\$0

\$0

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and establishes a transition grant program for individuals exiting the state foster care system at 21 years of age and actively pursuing a postsecondary education. The program is limited to 40 individuals at any one time who are at least 21 years of age but less than 27 years of age. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to adopt rules to govern the program, and must determine eligibility, levels of financial support, duration of assistance, provision of postsecondary education navigator services and the membership, terms, voting procedures and governance structure of an advisory committee to advise the department, which must provide an annual report to the department and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The department is required to develop the roles and responsibilities for one postsecondary education navigator to provide transitional services and college student support for those individuals in the transition grant program.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

SPONSORED BY: 

(Senator HILL)

COUNTY: York



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1683

LR 2389(04)

Resolve, To Improve Degree and Career Attainment for Former Foster Children

Fiscal Note for House Amendment 'A' to Original Bill

Sponsor: Sen. Hill of York

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	Projections FY 2015-16	Projections FY 2016-17
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	(\$149,827)	(\$102,898)	(\$105,857)
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	(\$149,827)	(\$102,898)	(\$105,857)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This fiscal note reflects the incremental impact of the amendment. The amendment adds an initial appropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 with an ongoing cost of \$200,000 for the State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance program in the Department of Health and Human Services for a transitional grant program for individuals exiting the State's foster care system at age 21 years old and actively pursuing post-secondary education. This assumes an annual grant cost of \$5,000 per child and initially 20 grants awarded in the first year with an effective start date on January 1, 2015. The amendment also adds a one-time deappropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 2014-15 in the State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance program resulting from program savings. The amendment further assumes the department will be able to secure a post-secondary education navigator at little or no cost to the department.