

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1683

H.P. 1206

House of Representatives, December 30, 2013

An Act To Improve Degree and Career Attainment for Former Foster Children

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and
Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, GILLWAY of
Searsport, SANBORN of Gorham, Senators: BOYLE of Cumberland, COLLINS of York,
GRATWICK of Penobscot, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4037-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 402, §5, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Extended care requirements.** A person who is at least 18, ~~19~~ or 20 years of age
5 but less than 27 years of age and who attained 18 years of age while in the care and
6 custody of the State may continue to receive care and support if the person:

7 A. Is enrolled in secondary school or its equivalent or is enrolled in postsecondary or
8 career and technical school;

9 B. Is participating in a program or activity that promotes employment or removes
10 barriers to employment;

11 C. Is employed for at least 80 hours per month; or

12 D. Is found to be in special circumstances, including but not limited to being
13 incapable of qualifying under paragraphs A to C due to a documented medical or
14 behavioral health condition.

15 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4037-A, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

16 **6. Annual report.** Annually, by April 5th, the joint standing committee of the
17 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters shall request an
18 organization with expertise in foster care to provide to the committee by the following
19 January 30th a report and briefing on the implementation of this section, including
20 information for the prior calendar year regarding the amount of federal and private
21 funding used to implement this section and the rates achieved for enrollment in and
22 graduation from postsecondary and career and technical schools.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill raises the upper age limit, from 20 years of age to 26 years of age, for
25 voluntary participation in extended care for persons who attained 18 years of age while in
26 the care and custody of the State. The bill also directs the joint standing committee of the
27 Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters to annually
28 request an organization with expertise in foster care to provide to the committee a report
29 and briefing on the implementation of the law.