

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1812

H.P. 1301

House of Representatives, March 11, 2014

An Act To Reduce the Burden Placed on Students as a Result of Requirements To Take Remedial Courses

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative COTTA of China. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10012, sub-§1, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 615, §1, is
3 amended to read:

4 B. The name of each secondary school in the State from which a traditional student
5 enrolled in a remedial course received a high school diploma ~~and~~, the number of
6 those students from each of those schools and the costs to those students resulting
7 from taking the remedial courses; and

8 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §10012, sub-§4,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 615, §1, is
9 repealed.

10 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§6-A** is enacted to read:

11 **6-A. Adjustment for costs of remedial courses.** The commissioner shall reduce the
12 state share of the total allocation to a school administrative unit by an amount equal to the
13 cost of remedial courses taken at the University of Maine System, the Maine Community
14 College System and the Maine Maritime Academy, referred to in this subsection as
15 "public institutions of higher education," by students who graduated from that school
16 administrative unit, as identified pursuant to section 10012, subsection 1, paragraph B.
17 The reduction must occur in a first school year that a student took a remedial course,
18 beginning after the issuance of the report pursuant to section 10012. The commissioner
19 shall forward the amount of state share by which the total allocation to a school
20 administrative unit is reduced to the treasurer of the appropriate public institution of
21 higher education. Each public institution of higher education that receives funds under
22 this subsection shall use the funds to reduce or eliminate the cost to students of taking
23 remedial courses and shall describe how it used the funds to achieve that reduction or
24 elimination in the report submitted under section 10012.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 Under current law, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College
27 System and the Maine Maritime Academy are required to report on the number of
28 remedial courses taken by students from each school administrative unit in the subjects of
29 English language arts and mathematics. This bill requires those higher education
30 institutions to report the costs to the students of those remedial courses, by school
31 administrative unit, and requires the Commissioner of Education to reduce state subsidy
32 to the school administrative units and to pay those funds to the higher education
33 institutions. Those higher education institutions are required to use the funds to reduce or
34 eliminate the costs of remedial courses to their students and to report to the
35 Commissioner of Education and the Legislature how those funds were used to achieve the
36 reduction or elimination of costs.