

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 860

H.P. 634

House of Representatives, February 14, 2019

**An Act To Establish the Maine Community College System No-cost
Tuition Program**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, EVANGELOS of Friendship, FARNSWORTH of
Portland, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, INGWERSEN of Arundel, McCREA of Fort
Fairfield, MOONEN of Portland, MORALES of South Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12706, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 695, §11, is
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Budget development.** To prepare and adopt a biennial, line-category, operating
5 budget for presentation to the Governor and the Legislature, incorporating all projected
6 expenditures, including estimated full funding for the Maine Community College System
7 No-cost Tuition Program, as established in section 12723, and all resources expected or
8 proposed to be made available to fund the operations of the system. The budget is to be
9 used in support of any requests to the Legislature for General Fund appropriations that the
10 board of trustees ~~may deem~~ determines appropriate and necessary to supplement other
11 resources available to the system and shall also serve as the foundation for an annual
12 fiscal management plan for the system;

13 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12723** is enacted to read:

14 **§12723. Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition Program**

15 The Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition Program is established
16 within the Maine Community College System to fully fund community college for
17 eligible students.

18 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
19 following terms have the following meanings.

20 A. "Eligible program of study" means a curriculum leading to an associate or
21 baccalaureate degree for which federal funds under the federal Higher Education Act
22 of 1965, 20 United States Code, Chapter 282, Subchapter IV are available.

23 B. "Eligible student" means a person who meets the requirements of subsection 2.

24 C. "Fund" means the Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition Fund
25 established in subsection 4.

26 D. "Program" means the Maine Community College System No-cost Tuition
27 Program.

28 **2. Eligibility.** A person is eligible to receive a grant for tuition and fees under
29 subsection 3 if the person meets the requirements of paragraph A or B.

30 A. A person is eligible to receive a grant under subsection 3 if the person:

31 (1) Is a resident of the State;

32 (2) Is admitted to a college and enrolled in courses leading to completion of an
33 eligible program of study at that college;

34 (3) Has not previously earned an associate or baccalaureate degree or has earned
35 an associate degree in an eligible program of study that directly leads to a
36 baccalaureate degree in an eligible program of study;

