

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 866

H.P. 640

House of Representatives, February 19, 2019

An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine

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 Representative WARREN of Hallowell, Senator CARSON of Cumberland and Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, EVANGELOS of Friendship, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JORGENSEN of Portland, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, MORALES of South Portland, PERRY of Calais.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10014** is enacted to read:

3 **§10014. Homeless youth**

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

6 A. "Homeless youth" means a person 21 years of age or younger who is
7 unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian and is without shelter where appropriate
8 care and supervision are available, whose parent or legal guardian is unable or
9 unwilling to provide shelter and care or who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate
10 nighttime residence. For the purposes of this paragraph, "fixed, regular and adequate
11 nighttime residence" does not include residence in an institution of higher education's
12 on-campus housing. "Homeless youth" does not include a person housed in a
13 correctional facility, jail or detention facility.

14 B. "Institution of higher education" means an educational institution that offers an
15 accredited postsecondary educational degree program.

16 **2. Homeless liaison.** Each institution of higher education shall designate a staff
17 member to serve as a liaison to assist homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution
18 of higher education.

19 **3. On-campus housing.** Each institution of higher education that has a residential
20 campus shall:

21 A. Give homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution of higher education
22 priority for on-campus housing, including but not limited to on-campus housing that
23 remains open during school breaks;

24 B. Develop a plan for housing homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution of
25 higher education during school breaks; and

26 C. Allow homeless youth who are enrolled part-time in that institution of higher
27 education to access on-campus housing during the homeless youth's first year of
28 school.

29 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12572, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 471, §2, is
30 further amended to read:

31 Any person who was in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services
32 and resided in foster care or subsidized adoptive care or was a minor ward of a
33 subsidized permanency guardian as provided in Title 22, section 4038-D at the time that
34 person graduated from high school or successfully completed a general educational
35 development examination or its equivalent under section 257 or is a homeless youth as
36 defined in section 10014, subsection 1, paragraph A may attend, as provided in this
37 section, any state postsecondary educational institution free of tuition charges.

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Sec. 3. Maine Revised Statutes headnote amended; revision clause. In the
Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 429-A, in the chapter headnote, the words
"tuition waiver at state postsecondary educational institutions for persons who have
resided in foster care" are amended to read "tuition waiver at state postsecondary
educational institutions for persons who have resided in foster care or are homeless
youth" and the Revisor of Statutes shall implement this revision when updating,
publishing or republishing the statutes.

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SUMMARY

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This bill requires institutions of higher education in the State to designate an existing
staff member to serve as a liaison for homeless youth who are enrolled in that institution
of higher education. The bill also requires institutions of higher education to give
homeless youth priority for on-campus housing, develop a plan to provide homeless
youth housing during school breaks and allow homeless youth who are enrolled part-time
to access on-campus housing during the homeless youth's first year of school. The bill
also expands the tuition waiver for state postsecondary educational institutions to include
tuition waivers for homeless youth.