

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/10/21

(Filing No. H-544)

Majority

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 238, L.D. 334, "An Act To Help Maine Students Catch Up and Keep Up by Providing Remedial and Compensatory Assistance in Response to Education Disruption"

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

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12723 is enacted to read:

§12723. High school graduates tuition waiver; 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years

For the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, the system shall provide a waiver of tuition and fees to any student who graduated from a high school in this State in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year and who has completed an application for federal student aid financial aid programs and is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant for the academic year in which the person applies to the system. The amount of the waiver is limited to the difference between the amount of the full tuition and fees and the amount provided by the Federal Pell Grant and is limited to 2 school years. The system may request federal funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 that provides stimulus funds due to the pandemic related to coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, and additional General Fund appropriations from the Legislature to offset the reduction in tuition and fee revenues. The availability of the waiver is limited to the amount appropriated.

Sec. 2. School administrative units to provide academic and enrichment programs; grant program. The Department of Education shall establish a grant program to provide funding for school administrative units to provide academic and enrichment programs for students scoring below proficient in English language arts or mathematics according to local assessment. To be eligible for the grant program, a school administrative unit must offer academic and enrichment programs during the school year and must offer summer academic and enrichment programs, beginning the summer of 2022, that are a minimum of 3 hours of instruction per day for a minimum of 5 weeks. Funding for the grant program must include the use of any federal funding, including but

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 not limited to funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after December 15,
2 2020 that provides stimulus funds due to the pandemic related to coronavirus disease 2019,
3 or COVID-19, available for this purpose, and funding appropriated to the department from
4 the General Fund.

5 **Sec. 3. Administrators for tutoring programs.** Using any federal funding,
6 including but not limited to funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after
7 December 15, 2020 that provides stimulus funds due to the pandemic related to coronavirus
8 disease 2019, or COVID-19, available for this purpose, the Department of Education shall
9 provide funding for an administrator of a tutoring program for eligible school
10 administrative units. To be eligible for these funds, a school administrative unit must have
11 volunteers providing tutoring to students for a minimum of 30 minutes, 3 times a week
12 during the summer of 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year. Funds provided pursuant to
13 this section must be prioritized by the percentage of students at each school administrative
14 unit eligible for federal free and reduced lunch programs, with the school administrative
15 units with higher percentages of eligible students receiving priority for funds.'

16 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
17 number to read consecutively.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill, which
20 is a concept draft. The amendment does the following.

21 1. It requires the Maine Community College System to waive tuition and fees for any
22 Maine high school graduate who graduated during the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year
23 and is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant. The waiver is limited to the difference between the
24 full cost of tuition and fees and the amount of the grant and is limited to 2 academic years.
25 The Maine Community College System may request additional federal stimulus funds or
26 General Fund appropriations from the Legislature to offset this cost.

27 2. It directs the Department of Education to establish a grant program for school
28 administrative units to fund school year and summer academic and enrichment programs
29 for students who are scoring below proficient in English and mathematics based on local
30 assessment and provides that the Department of Education must use federal stimulus funds,
31 if available, and funds from the General Fund.

32 3. It provides that, for school administrative units with volunteer tutors for the summer
33 of 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year, the Department of Education must use federal
34 stimulus funds to fund an administrator for the tutoring program. Funds provided must be
35 prioritized by the percentage of students at each school administrative unit eligible for
36 federal free and reduced lunch programs.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 334

LR 476(02)

An Act To Help Maine Students Catch Up and Keep Up by Providing Remedial and Compensatory Assistance in Response to Education Disruption

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A (H-544)*

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium cost increase - Federal Expenditures Fund
Reduction of tuition revenue - Maine Community College System

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation requires the Department of Education to establish a grant program to provide funding to local school administrative units (SAUs) to provide academic and enrichment programs for students scoring below proficient levels in English Language Arts or Math and to provide funds for an administrator of a tutoring program for eligible SAUs utilizing eligible federal funds, including, but not limited to, funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 that may be available for this purpose. According to the department, SAUs have obligated approximately \$16.3 million of funding received through the Elementary and Secondary Educations Act (ESEA) and the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund through May 15th, to support summer programming in 2021.

Requiring the Maine Community College System (MCCS) to waive the difference between the amount of full tuition and fees and the amount provided by a Federal Pell Grant for a 2-year period to any student who graduated from a high school in the State in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year and who has completed an application for federal student aid programs and is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant will result in a loss of revenue from tuition and fees to the MCCS. The MCCS estimates the loss of revenue to be approximately \$1.7 million for each of the 2 years. This legislation provides that MCCS may request federal funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 that provides stimulus funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic and additional General Fund appropriations from the Legislature to offset the reduction in tuition revenue.