

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 773

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H.P. 578

House of Representatives, March 5, 2021

### **An Act To Assist Public School Students and Families Who Are Homeless**

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Reference to the Committee on Labor and Housing suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

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

2           **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4014** is enacted to read:

3       **§4014. Referral for housing assistance**

4           Upon identifying a public school student as a homeless child or youth as defined in the  
5       federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42  
6       United States Code, Section 11431 et seq., a local educational agency liaison for children  
7       and youth experiencing homelessness pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless  
8       Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et  
9       seq. shall make a referral to the Maine State Housing Authority for temporary housing  
10       assistance for the student and the student's family under Title 30-A, section 4762.

11          **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4762, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 175, §9, is amended  
12       to read:

13          **3. Provisions governing assistance.** The program must be administered subject to  
14       the provisions in this section. Priority must be given to persons who demonstrate a need  
15       for assistance and the ability to repay a loan and to homeless students and the families of  
16       homeless students referred to the authority under Title 20-A, section 4014. For the purpose  
17       of this subsection, "homeless student" means a public school student identified as a  
18       homeless child or youth as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education  
19       Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq. by a  
20       local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness  
21       pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements  
22       Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq.

23           A. The state authority, by rules adopted in accordance with the Maine Administrative  
24       Procedure Act, shall establish priorities of assistance. These priorities must be based  
25       on the household income of the applicant, the demonstrated need for assistance, the  
26       ability to repay a loan, the needs of a homeless student and the family of the homeless  
27       student and other criteria established by the state authority.

28           B. Grants may be provided only when:

- 29               (1) The grant is essential to securing a decent, safe and sanitary rental unit for the  
30               applicant;  
31               (2) The income of the applicant is insufficient to repay any loan or portion of a  
32               loan;  
33               (3) All available resource alternatives have been exhausted; and  
34               (4) The applicant has satisfied all other program priorities and requirements as  
35               established by the state authority.

36           C. Loans from the fund may be made for a period based on the applicant's ability to  
37       repay the loan, not to exceed 12 months. Interest may be charged on loans based on  
38       the applicant's ability to repay the loan, not to exceed 3%. When an applicant can not  
39       repay the loan in full within the 12-month period, the state authority may extend the  
40       repayment period if the state authority determines that the loan can be repaid during  
41       the extension period. The state authority may defer or waive the payment of interest

1 or principal on any loan or portion of a loan for which that payment is an undue  
2 hardship.

3 D. Assistance under the program must be provided on an ongoing basis to the extent  
4 that money is available in the fund.

5 **SUMMARY**

6 This bill requires that the Maine State Housing Authority give priority for temporary  
7 housing assistance to homeless students and their families who are identified and referred  
8 to the authority by a local educational agency liaison for children and youth experiencing  
9 homelessness under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance  
10 Improvements Act of 2001.