

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1091

S.P. 352

In Senate, March 22, 2021

**An Act To Improve the Long-term Outcomes for Youth
Transitioning from State Care by Raising the Upper Age Limit for
Voluntary Support Eligibility**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 18, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Senators: CLAXTON of Androscoggin, CYRWAY of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4010-C, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 577, §1, is amended
3 to read:

4 **1. Age; enrollment in postsecondary education institution.** In order to be eligible
5 to participate in the program, an individual must be at least ~~21~~ 23 years of age but less than
6 27 years of age, must have exited the voluntary extended care and support agreement with
7 the State under section 4037-A at ~~21~~ 23 years of age and must be enrolled in a
8 postsecondary education institution.

9 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4037-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 402, §5, is amended
10 to read:

11 **1. Extended care requirements.** A person who is 18, 19 ~~or~~, 20, 21 or 22 years of age
12 and who attained 18 years of age while in the care and custody of the State may continue
13 to receive care and support if the person:

14 A. Is enrolled in secondary school or its equivalent or is enrolled in postsecondary or
15 career and technical school;

16 B. Is participating in a program or activity that promotes employment or removes
17 barriers to employment;

18 C. Is employed for at least 80 hours per month; or

19 D. Is found to be in special circumstances, including but not limited to being incapable
20 of qualifying under paragraphs A to C due to a documented medical or behavioral
21 health condition.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill raises the upper age limit from 20 years of age to 22 years of age for voluntary
24 participation in extended care for persons who attained 18 years of age while in the care
25 and custody of the State. It makes a corresponding change in the transition grant program
26 for individuals exiting extended care and pursuing a postsecondary education by changing
27 the requirement that to be eligible to participate in the program an individual must be at
28 least 21 years of age to a requirement that an individual must be at least 23 years of age.