

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 32

S.P. 24

In Senate, December 30, 2022

An Act to Update the Maine State Grant Program

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Finance Authority of Maine pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and
Business suggested 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 DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the federal FAFSA Simplification Act, Public Law 116-260, Sections 701
4 to 706 (2020) made significant changes to the underlying processes and methodologies for
5 determining federal student aid eligibility; and

6 **Whereas,** most of these provisions are scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2023; and

7 **Whereas,** the Maine State Grant Program, set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes,
8 Title 20-A, sections 11611 to 11619-A, relies in part on submission of the free application
9 for federal student aid and uses the outdated term "expected family contribution" in
10 determining awards; and

11 **Whereas,** if this legislation is not enacted on an emergency basis, the Maine State
12 Grant Program will use an outdated term and risk confusing participants; and

13 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
14 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
15 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
16 therefore,

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

18 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11611, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 2001, c. 70, §3, is
19 repealed.

20 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §11611, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

21 **7. Student aid index.** "Student aid index" means a calculation that reflects an
22 evaluation of a student's approximate financial resources to contribute toward the student's
23 postsecondary education for an academic year.

24 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §11613, first ¶,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 103, §1, is further
25 amended to read:

26 The authority shall establish the need of a student for a Maine State Grant for an
27 academic year for which the student applies. ~~A student is considered to have a need to~~
28 ~~qualify for a grant if the total of the cost of attendance of the student, minus the expected~~
29 ~~family contribution for the student, minus estimated student financial assistance not~~
30 ~~received under this program, is greater than zero. The total of the expected family~~
31 ~~contribution, together with any other student financial assistance received by the student,~~
32 In doing so, the authority shall consider the cost of attendance of the student, the student
33 aid index and estimated student financial assistance not received under this program. The
34 total cost determined by these factors may not exceed the cost of attendance at the
35 institution the student attends.

36 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §11613, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1989, c. 559, §10, is
37 repealed.

38 **Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §11614, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2001, c. 70, §8, is further
39 amended to read:

