

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 512

S.P. 229

In Senate, February 9, 2023

**An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in
the University of Maine System by Providing Tuition Waivers to
Eligible Students**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs 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 TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono and
Representatives: MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, RANA of Bangor, SAYRE of Kennebunk.

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

2 **Sec. 1. Tuition waiver for eligible students at the University of Maine**
3 **System.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State shall provide the
4 funding necessary to provide a tuition waiver equal to 50% of the costs of tuition at a
5 campus of the University of Maine System for up to 4 years to an eligible student in
6 accordance with this section.

7 1. For the purposes of this section, an eligible student is:

8 A. A high school graduate in the class of 2023, 2024 or 2025 who enrolls at a campus
9 of the University of Maine System in the fall of 2023, 2024 or 2025; or

10 B. A person who obtains the equivalent of a high school diploma in 2023, 2024 or 2025
11 who enrolls at a campus of the University of Maine System in the fall of 2023, 2024 or
12 2025.

13 2. In order to receive the tuition waiver, an eligible student must:

14 A. Be enrolled at a campus of the University of Maine System full time;

15 B. Pursue an associate or bachelor's degree or academic credential;

16 C. Live in the State at the time of enrollment at a campus of the University of Maine
17 System and for the duration of that enrollment;

18 D. Accept all available federal and state grants, scholarships and other sources of
19 funding; and

20 E. In the 2nd and subsequent years of enrollment, maintain a grade point average of at
21 least 2.0.

22 **Sec. 2. Returning student degree completion tuition waiver.** Notwithstanding
23 any provision of law to the contrary, the State shall provide the funding necessary to
24 provide a returning student degree completion tuition waiver equal to 50% of the costs of
25 tuition for up to one year at a campus of the University of Maine System to an eligible
26 student in accordance with this section.

27 1. For the purposes of this section, an eligible student:

28 A. May not have been enrolled at any campus of the University of Maine System in
29 the 2022-2023 school year;

30 B. Must have resided in the State for at least 5 years; and

31 C. Must be 30 or fewer credit hours away from degree completion.

32 2. A returning student degree completion tuition waiver may be applied only for the
33 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 school years.

34 **Sec. 3. Report.** Annually for 3 years, no later than October 1, 2023, 2024 and 2025,
35 the University of Maine System shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing
36 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the use and
37 success of the tuition waivers in this Act.

SUMMARY

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This bill establishes 2 tuition waivers for students enrolled at a campus of the University of Maine System. The first tuition waiver provides 50% tuition for up to 4 years for a full-time student who is a high school graduate in the class of 2023, 2024 or 2025 or obtains the equivalent of a high school diploma in 2023, 2024 or 2025. The 2nd tuition waiver provides 50% tuition for up to one year for returning students who have resided in the State for at least 5 years and are 30 or fewer credit hours away from degree completion. The bill also requires the University of Maine System to report on the use and success of the tuition waivers.