

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 944

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H.P. 591

House of Representatives, March 2, 2023

### **An Act to Allow Refugees, Asylees and Asylum Seekers to Qualify for In-state Tuition**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MALON of Biddeford, OSHER of Orono, RANA of Bangor, RECKITT of South Portland, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SUPICA of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10016** is enacted to read:

3 **§10016. Tuition for refugees, asylees and asylum seekers**

4 **1. In-state tuition for refugees, asylees and asylum seekers.** A refugee, asylee or  
5 asylum seeker under 8 United States Code, Chapter 12, Subchapter II, Part I who resides  
6 in the State and who meets the requirements of this section qualifies for in-state tuition at  
7 the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine  
8 Maritime Academy.

9 **2. Criteria for in-state tuition.** A person qualifies for in-state tuition under subsection  
10 1 if the person is not a citizen of the United States and:

11 A. Is a refugee and resettled in the State directly after arriving in the United States;

12 B. Is a refugee, resettled in another state directly after arriving in the United States prior  
13 to residing in the State and meets the same qualifications for in-state tuition as a citizen  
14 of the United States;

15 C. Is seeking asylum and meets the same qualifications for in-state tuition as a citizen  
16 of the United States; or

17 D. Has been granted asylum and meets the same qualifications for in-state tuition as a  
18 citizen of the United States.

19 **3. Documentation.** A person qualifying for in-state tuition under subsection 2 must  
20 provide appropriate documentation of residency and documentation from the United States  
21 Department of Homeland Security to establish the person's qualifications and immigration  
22 status under subsection 2.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill allows refugees, asylees and asylum seekers to qualify for in-state tuition at  
25 the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine  
26 Maritime Academy if they meet certain residency requirements and provide documentation  
27 for their qualifications and documentation regarding their immigration status from the  
28 United States Department of Homeland Security.