

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2098

Date: 3/13/26 MAJORITY

(Filing No. H-853)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1413, L.D. 2098, "An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes and Laws'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

'Sec. 5. P&SL 1973, c. 29, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Degrees. The College of the Atlantic, located in Bar Harbor, shall have the power to confer the degree of Bachelor of Arts in ~~Human Ecology~~ as is usually conferred by like institutions of higher learning.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, amends the College of the Atlantic's Private and Special Law to broaden the college's degree-granting authority.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2098

LR 2617(02)

An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment **A(H-853)**
Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

| | FY 2025-26 | FY 2026-27 | Projections FY 2027-28 | Projections FY 2028-29 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| Other Special Revenue Funds | \$0 | \$6,500 | \$6,500 | \$6,500 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill would require a degree-granting educational institution to pay an application fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the Department of Education (department) for processing the application. The increase in application fees is expected to generate \$6,500 in Other Special Revenue Funds revenue for the department. This fiscal note assumes that the department will receive about 11 applications per year, consistent with the prior year, and that the average fee charged will equal the unweighted average of the three fee tiers charged by the department (\$250, \$500, and \$1000).

The bill also allows the State Board of Education (state board) to recommend an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority without additional review if the state board has approved or renewed approval for the institution to offer academic programs in the State within five years of the institution's application for degree-granting authority. This provision is expected to generate minor savings for the state board.