

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**August 29, 2013**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 8, 2014 to May 2, 2014**

**THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**EMERGENCY LAW IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2013**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**AUGUST 1, 2014**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

---

---

**Augusta, Maine**  
**2014**

**§877. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**1. DD Form 214.** "DD Form 214" means an Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge or its predecessor or successor forms.

**2. Private employer.** "Private employer" means a sole proprietor, corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other entity with one or more employees. "Private employer" does not include the State, a county, a municipality, a township, a school district or a public institution of higher education.

**3. Veteran.** "Veteran" means a person who has served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, or has served in the national guard of any state or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, and was discharged or released with an honorable discharge.

**4. Veteran preference employment policy.** "Veteran preference employment policy" means a private employer's preference for hiring, promoting or retaining a veteran over another qualified applicant or employee.

**§878. Veteran preference employment policy**

A private employer may have a veteran preference employment policy. The policy must be in writing and must be applied uniformly to employment decisions regarding hiring, promotion or retention during a reduction in workforce. A private employer may require that a veteran submit a DD Form 214 to be eligible for the preference.

See title page for effective date.

---

---

**CHAPTER 577**

**H.P. 1206 - L.D. 1683**

**An Act To Improve Degree and Career Attainment for Former Foster Children**

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

**Sec. 1.** 22 MRSA §4010-C is enacted to read:

**§4010-C. Transition grant program**

The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a transition grant program to provide financial support to eligible individuals to pay for postsecondary education.

**1. Age; enrollment in postsecondary education institution.** In order to be eligible to participate in the program, an individual must be at least 21 years of age

but less than 27 years of age, must have exited the voluntary extended care and support agreement with the State under section 4037-A at 21 years of age and must be enrolled in a postsecondary education institution.

**2. Level of financial support.** The transition grant is for postsecondary support up to the completion of an undergraduate degree. The level of financial support must be equivalent to the current voluntary extended foster care supports pursuant to section 4037-A. The department shall set duration limits, including a 6-year maximum for a 4-year degree, a 4-year maximum for a 2-year degree and other duration limits for other types of postsecondary education.

**3. Postsecondary education navigator services.** The program must include postsecondary education navigator services that provide transitional services and college support. The department shall determine the specifics of those services.

**4. Advisory committee.** The department shall establish an advisory committee to provide oversight of the implementation of the transition grant program. The advisory committee must include stakeholders in the postsecondary education field, the department's postsecondary education navigator under subsection 6, professionals who work with transitional foster youth, employers, representatives of the department and other interested parties. The department shall adopt rules to determine the membership, terms of office and voting procedures of the advisory committee and other specifics of the advisory committee's governance structure. The advisory committee shall provide an annual report to the department and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

**5. Limit on number of individuals receiving transition grants.** No more than 40 individuals at any one time may receive transition grants under this section.

**6. Postsecondary education navigator.** The department shall develop the roles and responsibilities for the postsecondary education navigator to provide transitional services and college student support for individuals pursuant to this section. The postsecondary education navigator shall provide data to the advisory committee.

The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

**State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0139**

Initiative: Appropriates funds for a transitional grant program for individuals exiting the state foster care system at 21 years of age and actively pursuing post-secondary education. This appropriation is to provide the initial 20 grants beginning January 1, 2015.

GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
All Other	\$0	\$50,000
	\$0	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$50,000

**State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0139**

Initiative: Deappropriates funds on a one-time basis resulting from program savings.

GENERAL FUND	2013-14	2014-15
All Other	\$0	(\$50,000)
	\$0	(\$50,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$50,000)

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2013-14	2014-15
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 578  
S.P. 68 - L.D. 232**

**An Act To Increase the Base for the Cost-of-living Increase for Retired State Employees and Teachers**

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

**Whereas,** it is imperative that this legislation take effect prior to the close of fiscal year 2013-14 in order to reserve sufficient funds from the General Fund unappropriated surplus at the end of fiscal year 2013-14 to pay for the one-time, noncumulative cost-

of-living adjustment payable in calendar year 2014; and

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

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

**Sec. 1.** PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. T, §22 is amended to read:

**Sec. T-22. Noncumulative cost-of-living adjustment retirement benefit.** No later than August 15th in 2012, 2013 and 2014, the Executive Director of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System shall notify the State Controller of the total cost of providing a payment to retirees that would otherwise have been eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment but for the operation of the suspension of the annual cost-of-living adjustments pursuant to the provisions of this Part. The benefit calculation for the noncumulative cost-of-living adjustments payable in 2012 and 2013 is equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index for the year ending in June of the prior calendar year, up to a maximum of 3%, but in no case may the change be less than 0%, multiplied by the retirement benefit payments up to a maximum of \$20,000 for the one-year period ending August 31st of that calendar year, excluding any retirement benefits calculated pursuant to this section. The benefit calculation for the noncumulative cost-of-living adjustment payable in 2014 is equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index for the year ending in June 2013, up to a maximum of 3%, but in no case may the change be less than 0%, multiplied by the retirement benefit payments up to a maximum of \$30,000 for the one-year period ending August 31, 2014, excluding any retirement benefits calculated pursuant to this section. The State Controller shall transfer the amounts calculated pursuant to this section up to the balance available in the reserve for retirement benefits established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1522 no later than September 1st of each year. If the balance in the reserve for retirement benefits on that date is not sufficient to fully fund the total benefits calculated, the State Controller shall transfer the amount that is available in the reserve to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and the executive director shall proportionally reduce the benefit calculated by this section to equal the amount of funding provided.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 29, 2014.