An Act to Provide Ongoing Funding for up to 2 Years of Community College for Certain Maine Students

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

Presented by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representative: LaROCHELLE of Augusta, Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12724 is enacted to read:

§12724. Tuition waiver for up to 2 years for eligible students
The Maine Community College System shall provide a waiver of tuition and fees for up to 2 years to an eligible student in accordance with this section.

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible student" means:
   A. A high school graduate; or
   B. An individual who obtains the equivalent of a high school diploma.

2. Conditions. In order to receive a waiver of tuition and fees for up to 2 years at a community college, an eligible student must:
   A. Be enrolled in a community college full-time;
   B. Pursue an associate degree or academic credential;
   C. Live in the State at the time of enrollment in a community college and for the duration of that enrollment; and
   D. Accept all available federal and state grants, scholarships and other sources of funding.

3. Report. The Maine Community College System shall submit a report annually by October 1st to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the use and success of enrollment in the Maine Community College System pursuant to this section.

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

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE
MCCS Free Community College - Two Enrollment Years Z335

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for up to 2 years of a waiver of tuition and fees at a community college for eligible high school graduates and individuals who obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma.

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<th>GENERAL FUND</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
<th>2024-25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>$20,000,000</td>
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GENERAL FUND TOTAL: $20,000,000

SUMMARY
This bill provides ongoing funding for high school graduates and individuals who obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma to receive a waiver of tuition and fees for up to 2 years in the Maine Community College System.