



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 18

H.P. 22

House of Representatives, December 30, 2022

**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.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representative: LaROCHELLE of Augusta, Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec.

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

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

3 **§12724. Tuition waiver for up to 2 years for eligible students**

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

6 **1. Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible
7 student" means:

8 A. A high school graduate; or

9 B. An individual who obtains the equivalent of a high school diploma.

10 **2. Conditions.** In order to receive a waiver of tuition and fees for up to 2 years at a
11 community college, an eligible student must:

12 A. Be enrolled in a community college full-time;

13 B. Pursue an associate degree or academic credential;

14 C. Live in the State at the time of enrollment in a community college and for the
15 duration of that enrollment; and

16 D. Accept all available federal and state grants, scholarships and other sources of
17 funding.

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

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

24 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE**

25 **MCCS Free Community College - Two Enrollment Years Z335**

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

29 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
30 All Other	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000
31		
32 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$20,000,000</u>	<u>\$20,000,000</u>

33 **SUMMARY**

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