

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Strengthen Maritime Education by Amending the Laws Governing the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8232, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 363, §4, is amended to read:

The school is established as a public, ~~residential~~ school located in the Town of Searsport and the following provisions apply.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8232, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §13, is further amended to read:

2. Tuition; room and board; funding. ~~Students~~A student from this State may attend the school free of tuition charges. Additional funding for students from this State may be provided within amounts appropriated for that purpose as follows.

A. State funding for the school must be provided using the method established for public charter schools that are authorized by the commission in accordance with the funding provisions established in section 2413-A and section 15683-B. To be eligible for state funding under this paragraph, a student must have resided in Maine with a parent, other relative or guardian for at least 6 months immediately preceding application to the school.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8235, sub-§16, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 363, §4, is amended to read:

16. Report. To report annually to the Governor, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs on the results of the assessment in subsection 15 and the general status of the school and to provide a financial audit of the school conducted by an independent auditor; The report under this subsection must include, at a minimum, assessments for:

- A. Student academic proficiency;
- B. Student academic growth;
- C. Achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between major student subgroups;
- D. Attendance;
- E. Recurrent enrollment from year to year;
- F. Postsecondary readiness;
- G. Financial performance and sustainability;

H. Board of trustees performance and stewardship; and

I. Parent and community engagement;

Sec. 4. 20-A MRS §8238, as amended by PL 2019, c. 531, §1, is further amended to read:

§ 8238. Implementation; limited authorization

The school may implement the plan established for the statewide education programs pursuant to section 8236, subsection 2 ~~during the 2017-2018 school year.~~

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all powers, duties and authority of the school under this chapter and under any other law terminate 90 days after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the ~~129th~~131st Legislature.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the provision of law terminating the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature to provide that the school is terminated 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. It also removes references to residential students and amends reporting requirements for the school by incorporating reporting requirements similar to those of charter schools.