



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2099**LR 2615(02)**

An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "**Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

Fiscal Note

Temporarily limits participation to keep pace with available funding in current biennium

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill imposes a lifetime cap on the number of courses for which secondary students and career and technical education students enrolled in a designated early college career pathway may receive a state subsidy. The bill also restricts state subsidy for postsecondary courses to students who are Maine residents and meet public tuition criteria. The eligibility policy of the Department of Education (department) currently includes these provisions; the bill seeks to codify existing policy in statute. These provisions are intended to lower the number of postsecondary courses for which secondary and early college students may receive a state subsidy. There is no new funding provided in the bill because the amount of the state subsidy is included in the department's total cost of education. However, demand for these courses is likely to continue to outpace available funding, even with the restrictions imposed by this bill. Additionally, the bill repeals the lifetime credit cap on July 31, 2028, after which the reimbursement due to eligible institutions from the department is likely to exceed available resources, absent additional appropriations, statutory changes or other arrangements.

The bill also requires the department, in collaboration with eligible institutions, to provide an update to the Legislature by February 1, 2028 on eligibility requirements for a secondary student to receive a state subsidy for postsecondary courses and on lifetime credit caps for secondary students and career and technical education students. Any additional costs to the department to implement the requirements of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources.