



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 461

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H.P. 345

House of Representatives, January 29, 2019

### **An Act To Improve the Affordability of Higher Education**

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Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, ALLEY of Beals, CROCKETT of Portland, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, KORNFIELD of Bangor, PIERCE of Falmouth, TIPPING of Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. Expansion of program.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the  
3 contrary, the Finance Authority of Maine shall expand the Maine State Grant Program, as  
4 established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11612, to enable more low-  
5 income residents of the State to attend an institution of higher education within the State.

6 **Sec. 2. Delivery of federally funded support services.** Notwithstanding any  
7 provision of law to the contrary, the Finance Authority of Maine and the Department of  
8 Health and Human Services shall jointly examine ways to maximize the delivery of  
9 federally funded support services to postsecondary students, including, but not limited to,  
10 the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program administered by the State pursuant  
11 to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3104.

12 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
13 allocations are made.

14 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

15 **Student Financial Assistance Programs 0653**

16 Initiative: Provides additional one-time funds to the Maine State Grant Program.

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18	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
19	All Other	\$45,000,000	\$45,000,000
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21	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,000,000</b>	<b>\$45,000,000</b>

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill provides additional funding to the Maine State Grant Program in the 2020-  
24 2021 biennium. It requires the Finance Authority of Maine to expand the Maine State  
25 Grant Program to enable more low-income residents of the State to attend an institution  
26 of higher education within the State. It also requires the Finance Authority of Maine and  
27 the Department of Health and Human Services to jointly examine ways to maximize the  
28 delivery of federally funded support services to postsecondary students, including, but not  
29 limited to, the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program.