

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 736

H.P. 478

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

An Act to Improve Ferry Service Reliability by Providing Scholarships at the Maine Maritime Academy

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RAY of Lincolnville. Cosponsored by Representative: DODGE of Belfast.

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

Sec. 1. Scholarship program. The Maine Maritime Academy shall create the Workforce Development Scholarship Program to provide scholarships in an amount not to exceed \$1,250 for each student for a minimum of 115 students at the academy to assist those students in earning the initial credits necessary to work at a state, municipal, private or quasi-public ferry service operator located in and serving residents of the State.

Sec. 2. Operator consultation. The Maine Maritime Academy shall consult with the Maine State Ferry Service or a state, municipal, private or quasi-public ferry service operator located in and serving residents of the State in the development and implementation of the Workforce Development Scholarship Program under section 1 for the purposes of aligning operator needs with applicant training. The Maine Maritime Academy and one or more ferry service operators shall jointly develop a method for processing applications that allows flexibility for operator administrative capacities.

14 SUMMARY

This bill requires the Maine Maritime Academy to create the Workforce Development Scholarship Program to assist students in earning the initial credits necessary to work at a state, municipal, private or quasi-public ferry service operator located in and serving residents of the State. The bill also requires the Maine Maritime Academy to consult with the Maine State Ferry Service or a state, municipal, private or quasi-public ferry service operator in the development and implementation of the Workforce Development Scholarship Program and jointly develop a method for processing applications.