



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1028

H.P. 664

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

An Act to Expand the Higher Education Tuition Waiver for Persons Who Have Resided in Foster Care

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and
Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DODGE of Belfast, MEYER of Eliot,
PERRY of Calais, ROBERTS of South Berwick, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of
Westbrook, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12572, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 216, §1, is amended
3 to read:

4 **1. Eligibility of person.** A person is eligible for a tuition waiver under this chapter if
5 the person is:

6 A. A Is a Maine resident;

7 B. A Is a high school graduate or has attained a high school equivalency diploma as
8 described under section 257; ~~and~~

9 C. ~~Accepted~~ Is accepted for admission to a state postsecondary educational institution;
10 and

11 D. Has entered into a voluntary extended care and support agreement with the
12 Department of Health and Human Services under section 4037-A, if the person is
13 eligible to enter into such an agreement.

14 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12572, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 774, §3, is amended
15 to read:

16 **4. Revenue reduction.** A state postsecondary educational institution shall absorb the
17 reduction in tuition revenues that results from providing a tuition ~~waiver~~ waivers to ~~an~~ 30
18 eligible ~~person~~ persons under this chapter. The institution may not request additional
19 General Fund appropriations from the Legislature to offset the reduction in tuition revenues
20 related to 30 tuition waivers. Twenty tuition waivers per year must be funded with General
21 Fund appropriations.

22 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12573, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 187, §1, is further
23 amended to read:

24 **3. Limitation.** Tuition waivers to eligible persons are limited to ~~30~~ 50 new students
25 per year in each year at state postsecondary educational institutions as follows:

26 A. The first 25 tuition waivers must be available to eligible persons at the University
27 of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College
28 System; and

29 B. ~~Of the 5~~ The remaining tuition waivers, ~~3~~ 3 must be available to eligible persons at
30 the University of Maine System and ~~2~~ 2 must be available to eligible persons at the Maine
31 Community College System.

32 SUMMARY

33 This bill increases from 30 to 50 the number of tuition waivers for postsecondary
34 education allowed to be granted each academic year to persons who, at the time of their
35 graduation from high school or their successful completion of a general educational
36 development examination, were in the custody of the Department of Health and Human
37 Services and resided in foster care or subsidized adoptive care or were minor wards of a
38 subsidized permanency guardian. The bill also makes necessary changes to the provisions
39 regarding how the tuition waivers are apportioned to postsecondary educational
40 institutions. The additional 20 waivers must be funded with General Fund appropriations.
41 The bill also provides that students who are eligible to enter into a voluntary extended care

1 and support agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services must enter into
2 such an agreement to be eligible for a tuition waiver.