



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1297

H.P. 953

House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

**An Act To Provide Educational Opportunities for Family Members
of Deceased Veterans, First Responders and Health Care Workers**

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 BROOKS of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAVEN of Lewiston, DUNPHY of Old Town,
Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, Senator: CLAXTON of Androscoggin.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 441** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 441**

4 **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR FAMILY**
5 **MEMBERS OF DECEASED VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS AND HEALTH**
6 **CARE WORKERS**

7 **§12941. Educational Opportunity Grant Program for Family Members of Deceased**
8 **Veterans, First Responders and Health Care Workers**

9 **1. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
10 following terms have the following meanings.

11 A. "Authority" means the Finance Authority of Maine.

12 B. "First responder" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 832-A, subsection 1,
13 paragraph E.

14 C. "Fund" means the Educational Opportunity Grant Program for Family Members of
15 Deceased Veterans, First Responders and Health Care Workers Fund under section
16 12942.

17 D. "Program" means the Educational Opportunity Grant Program for Family Members
18 of Deceased Veterans, First Responders and Health Care Workers under subsection 2.

19 E. "Public postsecondary educational institution" means the University of Maine
20 System, the Maine Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy.

21 **2. Program.** The Educational Opportunity Grant Program for Family Members of
22 Deceased Veterans, First Responders and Health Care Workers is established within and
23 administered by the authority. The program provides a grant to an eligible person to cover
24 the cost of tuition, room and board, books and other required educational materials and
25 other fees and expenses related to attending a public postsecondary educational institution
26 typically paid for by financial aid.

27 **3. Eligibility.** A person is eligible to receive a grant under the program if:

28 A. The person is a child or spouse of a veteran, first responder or health care worker
29 who during the course of employment as a military service member, first responder or
30 health care worker dies or contracts an illness or condition that leads to the death of the
31 veteran, first responder or health care worker;

32 B. The person or the deceased veteran, first responder or health care worker under
33 paragraph A is a resident of the State at the time of the death or contraction of the
34 illness or condition leading to the death of the veteran, first responder or health care
35 worker; and

36 C. The person is accepted to a course of study in a public postsecondary educational
37 institution.

