



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 856

S.P. 300

In Senate, March 11, 2015

**An Act To Amend the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program To
Allow for Participation in Early College and Career and Technical
Education Programs**

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development
suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative WARD of Dedham and
Senators: BAKER of Sagadahoc, COLLINS of York, KATZ of Kennebec, VOLK of
Cumberland, WHITTEMORE of Somerset, Representatives: FARNSWORTH of Portland,
HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, PIERCE of Dresden.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6976** is enacted to read:

3 **§6976. Financial assistance**

4 **1. Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund.** The Commissioner of Labor shall
5 transfer funds from the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund, established in Title 26,
6 section 1166, subsection 2, to pay tuition, fees and other costs incurred by a student to a
7 postsecondary educational institution in which the student is enrolled through a dual
8 enrollment career and technical education program established pursuant to this chapter.
9 The Department of Labor may contract with an educational services contractor to help
10 carry out the requirements of this section.

11 **2. Rules.** The Commissioner of Labor may adopt rules to implement this section.
12 Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
13 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

14 **3. Repeal.** This section is repealed on January 1, 2021.

15 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

16 **2-A. Transfers for dual enrollment career and technical education students.**
17 Notwithstanding subsection 2, until January 1, 2021, the fund must also be administered
18 pursuant to Title 20-A, section 6976.

19 This subsection is repealed on January 1, 2021.

20 **Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §2033, sub-§5-A** is enacted to read:

21 **5-A. Secondary student eligibility.** Notwithstanding subsection 5, paragraphs A
22 and E, until January 1, 2021, a full-time student at a public secondary school enrolled in a
23 career and technical education program at a career and technical education center or a
24 career and technical education region must be granted enrollment in the Competitive
25 Skills Scholarship Program, within the limits of available Competitive Skills Scholarship
26 Program resources, if the student applies for enrollment and meets the requirements of
27 subsection 5, paragraphs B, C and D.

28 This subsection is repealed on January 1, 2021.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill expands the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program to include participants
31 who are under 18 years of age if they are full-time secondary students at a public
32 secondary school and enrolled in a career and technical education program at a career and
33 technical education center or a career and technical education region and:

- 34 1. Do not have a marketable postsecondary degree;
- 35 2. Have income less than 200% of the federal poverty level; and

1 3. Are applying for education or training for a job in an approved industry.

2 The bill also directs the Commissioner of Labor to transfer funds from the
3 Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund to cover postsecondary education expenses for
4 secondary students in a dual enrollment career and technical education program
5 established pursuant to statute, also known as a "Bridge Year Program."

6 The provisions in the bill are repealed on January 1, 2021.