



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1406

S.P. 524

In Senate, May 12, 2015

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion

(EMERGENCY)

Reported by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock for the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2013, chapter 109, section 8.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day
4 period in order to provide additional funding beginning in fiscal year 2015-16 to the
5 Finance Authority of Maine for the expansion of the Maine State Grant Program, to the
6 Maine Community College System for the annual costs of 27 College Navigator positions
7 and to the Maine Community College System for the annual costs of expanding student
8 work study opportunities; and

9 **Whereas,** the Finance Authority of Maine needs sufficient time to adopt rules for
10 the Maine State Grant Program in order to provide additional grant funding to eligible
11 students beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year; and

12 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
13 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
14 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
15 therefore,

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

17 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11614, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 642, §3, is
18 further amended to read:

19 **2. Minimum amount.** It is the intent of the Legislature that grants awarded under
20 this chapter, except as provided in subsections 4, 5 and 6, may not be less than ~~\$1,000~~
21 \$1,500. The authority may establish by rule increased grant amounts for students
22 attending their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years, or the equivalents thereof, at institutions of higher
23 education. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as
24 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

25 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §11617, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

26 **4. Annual report.** The authority shall, by January 15, 2016, and by January 15th
27 each year thereafter, report on the levels of grant awards made from the Maine State
28 Grant Program to eligible students, including the tiered grants awarded in accordance
29 with authority rules to eligible students attending their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years, or the
30 equivalents thereof, at institutions of higher education, to the joint standing committee of
31 the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The report
32 submitted by the authority must also include any data, findings and recommendations
33 related to college affordability and the unmet need levels of Maine college students,
34 including analyses submitted in any studies conducted by the New England Board of
35 Higher Education during the year.

36 **Sec. 3. College attainment and degree completion goals; report.** The
37 University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine
38 Maritime Academy shall each submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on
39 Education and Cultural Affairs by July 1, 2015 regarding their progress in implementing

1 the goals and objectives pertaining to college attainment and degree completion specified
2 in the "Statewide Education and Workforce Development Strategic Plan" report
3 submitted by the Education Coordinating Committee to the Joint Select Committee on
4 Maine's Workforce and Economic Future on January 30, 2014.

5 **Sec. 4. Strategic plan and funding required to implement college**
6 **completion strategies; report.** The boards of trustees for the University of Maine
7 System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy shall
8 each submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
9 by July 1, 2015 regarding their reactions to the strategies included in the October 2013
10 "The Game Changers" report prepared by Complete College America to enable more
11 college students to complete degree programs and certificate programs and graduate from
12 college. The report submitted by each board of trustees must include which strategies
13 were agreed upon, what additional resources would be required to implement these
14 strategies, what plan of action has been adopted and what assistance is necessary from the
15 State to support the implementation of these strategies.

16 **Sec. 5. Statutory college attainment goal; task force.** Notwithstanding Joint
17 Rule 353, the Task Force To Study College Attainment and Degree Completion Goals,
18 referred to in this section as "the task force," is established.

19 1. The task force consists of 15 members as follows:

20 A. Five members appointed by the President of the Senate, including not more than 2
21 members from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature, as
22 follows:

23 (1) One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on
24 Education and Cultural Affairs, who shall serve as a cochair of the task force;

25 (2) One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on
26 Appropriations and Financial Affairs;

27 (3) One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on
28 Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development;

29 (4) One member who serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine
30 Development Foundation; and

31 (5) One member who serves on the Board of Directors of Educate Maine;

32 B. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House, including not more than 2
33 members from the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature, as
34 follows:

35 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives who serve on the Joint
36 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, the first of whom shall
37 serve as a cochair of the task force;

38 (2) One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint
39 Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs;

- 1 (3) One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint
2 Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic
3 Development;
- 4 (4) One member who serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine State
5 Chamber of Commerce; and
- 6 (5) One member who serves on the Advisory Council of the Maine Centers for
7 Women, Work and Community;
- 8 C. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- 9 D. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;
- 10 E. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the
11 commissioner's designee; and
- 12 F. One public member appointed by the Governor.
- 13 2. All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date
14 of this Act. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the
15 Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after
16 appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task
17 force, which must be no later than 30 days following the appointment of all members.
18 The task force may meet 5 times.
- 19 3. The study conducted by the task force must include, but is not limited to:
- 20 A. A review of the college completion findings and recommendations included in the
21 December 2014 report submitted by the Commission To Study College Affordability
22 and College Completion to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural
23 Affairs, including the college attainment goals proposed to the commission by
24 Educate Maine, the attainment goals established by the Lumina Foundation and the
25 "40-40-20" aspirational goal for all levels of education established by the State of
26 Oregon;
- 27 B. An examination and review of the secondary and postsecondary education
28 attainment metrics contained within:
- 29 (1) The Department of Education's Maine Statewide Longitudinal Data System
30 developed pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6005;
- 31 (2) The Department of Labor's Maine Workforce Data Quality Initiative;
- 32 (3) Educate Maine's Education Indicators for Maine annual report;
- 33 (4) The Maine Development Foundation's Measures of Growth annual report;
34 and
- 35 (5) The initiatives, research and data conducted and compiled by regional,
36 national and state associations or agencies related to the establishment of
37 postsecondary education attainment goals, as well as the review and monitoring
38 of the postsecondary education attainment metrics related to the established
39 goals;

1 C. A review of the initiatives proposed by the public and independent colleges and
2 universities in the State as part of the March 2014 "Improving College Affordability
3 and Completion in Maine" report submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on
4 Education and Cultural Affairs;

5 D. A discussion with the public and independent colleges and universities in the
6 State to recognize the extent to which Maine's institutions of higher education may
7 support proposed state policies and strategies to enable more college and university
8 students to complete degree programs and certificate programs and graduate from
9 Maine institutions of higher education; and

10 E. An analysis of other policies and strategies that a majority of the task force
11 members agree to include in this study.

12 4. The task force shall seek outside funding to fully fund all costs of the task force
13 and in accordance with the policy of the Legislative Council with regard to outside
14 funding. If sufficient outside funding has not been received by the task force by 30 days
15 after the effective date of this Act to fully fund all costs of the commission, no meetings
16 are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed.

17 5. The University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the
18 Maine Maritime Academy shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force. The
19 Department of Education, the Department of Labor, the University of Maine System, the
20 Maine Community College System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Finance
21 Authority of Maine shall provide the task force with access to any nonconfidential
22 aggregate information in their student record databases for postsecondary education
23 students in the State necessary to carry out the duties of the task force. The Office of
24 Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide drafting assistance to the task force.

25 6. The task force shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations,
26 including any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on
27 Education and Cultural Affairs by December 15, 2015. The findings and
28 recommendations submitted by the task force must relate to at least the following
29 proposals:

30 A. The development of policies and strategies to increase the graduation rate of
31 students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education;

32 B. The establishment of a statutory postsecondary education attainment goal for the
33 proportion of the State's adult population holding an associate degree or baccalaureate
34 degree that is not lower than 50% by 2025; and

35 C. The development of annual or biennial review procedures to be conducted by the
36 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and
37 cultural affairs for monitoring the secondary and postsecondary education attainment
38 metrics contained within the Department of Education's Maine Statewide
39 Longitudinal Data System, the Department of Labor's Maine Workforce Data Quality
40 Initiative, Educate Maine's Education Indicators for Maine annual report and the
41 Maine Development Foundation's Measures of Growth annual report.

1 The joint standing committee may submit a bill related to this report to the Second
2 Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

3 **Sec. 6. Maine State Grant Program tiered funding; rulemaking.** The
4 Finance Authority of Maine, referred to in this section as "FAME," shall amend the
5 Maine State Grant Program rules adopted in accordance with Public Law 2011, chapter
6 642 in order to increase the grant amounts that may be awarded for eligible students
7 attending their 2nd, 3rd and 4th years, or the equivalents thereof, at institutions of higher
8 education. The Maine State Grant Program rules related to the determination of tiered
9 grant awards for eligible students must be amended to include the following provisions:

10 1. An eligible student for whom FAME does not require any expected family
11 contribution toward the cost of attending an institution of higher learning is eligible for
12 tiered grants starting at an annual award of \$2,500 with an annual increase of \$250 for
13 each year that the student is enrolled; and

14 2. An eligible student for whom FAME requires an expected family contribution
15 toward the cost of attending an institution of higher learning is eligible for tiered grants
16 starting at an annual award of \$1,500 with an annual increase of \$250 for each year that
17 the student is enrolled.

18 FAME shall amend the Maine State Grant Program rules authorized pursuant to the
19 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11614, subsection 2 in order to implement
20 these changes to the tiered grant awards beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year.

21 **Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
22 allocations are made.

23 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

24 **Student Financial Assistance Programs 0653**

25 Initiative: Provides funding for the annual costs of increasing the tiered grants awarded
26 to eligible students from the Maine State Grant Program.

27

28	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
29	All Other	\$27,000,000	\$27,000,000
30			
31	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$27,000,000</u>	<u>\$27,000,000</u>

32 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE**

33 **Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556**

34 Initiative: Provides funding for the annual costs of 27 College Navigator positions.
35

1	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
2	All Other	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,800,000</u>	<u>\$1,800,000</u>

5 **Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556**

6 Initiative: Provides funding for the annual costs of expanding student work study
7 opportunities.

8			
9	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
10	All Other	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
11			
12	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

13 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
14 legislation takes effect when approved.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This legislation is an emergency bill that includes certain recommendations proposed
17 by the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion for
18 consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

19 The joint standing committee has not taken a position on the substance of the report
20 or this bill and by submitting this bill the committee is not suggesting and does not intend
21 to suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of the recommendations and the
22 necessary changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 419-A included in
23 the report or this bill. The joint standing committee is submitting the bill for the sole
24 purpose of turning the proposals in the report into a printed bill that can be referred to the
25 committee for an appropriate public hearing and subsequent processing in the normal
26 course of business. The joint standing committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and
27 transparency in the legislative review of the proposals included in the report submitted by
28 the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion.