

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

Date: (Filing No. H-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 640, L.D. 866, Bill, “An Act To Support College Completion by Homeless Youth in Maine”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10014 is enacted to read:

§10014. Homeless students

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Homeless student" means a student under 25 years of age who has been verified, at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the student's admission to or while enrolled in a state postsecondary educational institution, as a homeless child or youth as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq. by:

(1) The director of a governmental or nonprofit agency that receives public or private funding to provide services to persons experiencing homelessness, or the director's designee;

(2) A local education agency liaison for children and youth experiencing homelessness pursuant to the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 United States Code, Section 11431 et seq. or a school counselor or school social worker as defined in section 4008, subsection 1;

(3) An attorney representing the student in any legal matter, if the student is under 18 years of age;

(4) The director of a federal outreach and student services program designed to identify and provide services for economically disadvantaged individuals or a

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 federal program about gaining early awareness and readiness for undergraduate
2 programs, or the director's designee; or

3 (5) A financial aid administrator at a state postsecondary educational institution.

4 B. "State postsecondary educational institution" means the University of Maine
5 System and any college within the system, the Maine Community College System
6 and any college within the system and Maine Maritime Academy.

7 **2. Homeless student liaison.** Each state postsecondary educational institution may
8 designate a staff member who is employed within the institution's financial aid office or
9 another appropriate office or department to serve as the homeless student liaison. The
10 homeless student liaison must have expertise in the financial aid eligibility of homeless
11 students and in identifying services for homeless students. The liaison shall assist
12 homeless students in applying for federal and state financial aid and applying for and
13 receiving available services.

14 **3. Housing resources.** When housing resources are offered by and available for
15 occupancy at a state postsecondary educational institution, the state postsecondary
16 educational institution shall:

17 A. Give homeless students who are enrolled full-time in that state postsecondary
18 educational institution priority for available housing resources, including but not
19 limited to priority for housing facilities that remain open for occupation during
20 academic and campus breaks; and

21 B. Develop individual housing plans for homeless students who are enrolled full-
22 time.

23 **4. Homeless student financial assistance grant.** Beginning in fiscal year 2020-21,
24 each state postsecondary educational institution may award a homeless student a grant
25 under this subsection. The grant award is limited to the amount of the cost of tuition, less
26 all other financial aid received from a Federal Pell Grant or any other merit-based or
27 needs-based grant or scholarship, not including a grant awarded under this subsection,
28 that the homeless student is not required to repay. To be eligible for a grant under this
29 subsection, a homeless student must have completed an application for federal student
30 financial aid programs for which the student may be eligible for the academic year for
31 which the student applies. The availability of the grant and the amount of the grant under
32 this subsection are subject to the amounts appropriated by the Legislature.

33 **5. Fund.** Each state postsecondary educational institution shall establish a
34 nonlapsing fund to distribute grant awards pursuant to subsection 4. The University of
35 Maine System, Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy shall
36 include the estimated full funding necessary to provide the grants under subsection 4 in
37 the preparation of the biennial budget for presentation to the Governor and the
38 Legislature.'

39 **SUMMARY**

40 This amendment, which strikes and replaces the bill, does the following.

1 1. It defines as a homeless student a student under 25 years of age who has been
2 verified, at any time during the 24 months immediately preceding the student's admission
3 to or while enrolled in a state postsecondary educational institution, as a homeless child
4 or youth as defined in the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance
5 Improvements Act of 2001.

6 2. It requires each state postsecondary educational institution to designate a staff
7 member as the homeless student liaison.

8 3. It authorizes each state postsecondary educational institution to award a homeless
9 student a financial assistance grant, which is limited to the amount of the cost of tuition
10 less all other financial aid received that a student is not required to repay. The
11 availability of the grant and the amount of the grant is also subject to the amounts
12 appropriated by the Legislature.

13 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

14 **(See attached)**