

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 1137 - L.D. 1533

**An Act To Amend the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition
Revolving Loan Program**

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 447, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (7) to read:

(7) Fees related to obtaining a Maine driver's license, including but not limited to driver's education course fees, learner's permit application fees and driver's license fees; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 447, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) Costs to travel to the nearest location of any exam or test needed to establish the applicant's skills or credentials or English language proficiency if there is no location within 60 miles of the Maine town in which the immigrant resides; and

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 447, §1, is amended by enacting a new subparagraph (9) to read:

(9) Costs of a filing fee required by the United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, or any successor federal agency, to apply for the immigrant's initial work permit.

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§1, ¶C-1 is enacted to read:

C-1. "Initial work permit" means the first work permit that the immigrant is authorized to apply for under 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 274a.12(c) (2019).

Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 447, §1, is amended to read:

E. "Work permit" means a document provided by the United States Department of Homeland Security or any other federal immigration authority confirming a federal authorization of a person who is not a United States citizen to work in the United States.

Sec. 6. 10 MRSA §1100-AA, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 447, §1, is amended to read:

B. Must have filed an application or petition with federal immigration authorities that entitles the immigrant to request a work permit in any of the categories set forth in 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section ~~274a.12(e)(2019)~~ 274a.12(c) (2019). The immigrant shall provide electronic or paper evidence establishing that the application or petition was filed with federal immigration authorities and shall state which section of 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section ~~274a.12(e)(2019)~~ 274a.12(c) (2019) allows the immigrant to request a work permit. An immigrant is not eligible if the immigrant has been denied a work permit at the time of making the application. In the case of ~~asylum seekers~~, an immigrant who, pursuant to 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 274a.12(c)(8) (2019) or other federal statute or regulation, is required to wait a period of time after filing an application for asylum or another immigration benefit or relief before becoming authorized to receive an initial work permit, the immigrant is eligible if the immigrant's request for asylum has been pending for fewer than 150 days since the date of its filing and the immigrant has not yet been able to apply for a work permit pursuant to 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 274a.12(c)(8)(2019) or, if more than 150 days have elapsed since the asylum application was filed, the immigrant has a pending application for a work permit underlying application for asylum or another immigration benefit or relief entitling the immigrant to request an initial work permit following the required period has been filed and is pending at the time of making the application to the program; and