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Testimony of Rep. Holly T. Sargent introducing

LD 2099, An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and fellow colleagues of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. I am Representative Holly Sargent, and I represent House District 147 in York. I am here today to introduce **LD 2099, An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses**.

This bill makes critical updates that reflect months of work by the Department of Education, the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System. The update to the definition of academic year better aligns with the academic calendars of the institutions. The proposed lifetime cap supports the original intent of the legislation by expanding the base of students who may participate.

The Department will present testimony on this bill, and I respectfully request that you defer any specific questions regarding the to them. I look forward to working with you as we deliberate the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

2 Sec.1. 20-A MRSA §4771, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. VVV, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§4771. Eligible institution ~~and~~ semester and academic year: defined**

5 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible institution"
6 means the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College
7 System and the Maine Maritime Academy. "Semester" means the fall, spring or summer
8 term of an academic year. "Academic year" means one full academic cycle that includes a
9 summer semester, a fall semester and a spring semester.

10 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §1,
11 is repealed.

12 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §2,
13 is further amended to read:

14 **5. Parental approval.** The student's parent approves; ~~and~~

15 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §3, is
16 amended to read:

17 **6. Recommendation.** The student has received a recommendation to take a
18 postsecondary course or courses at an eligible institution from the student's school or school
official with knowledge of the student's academic performance. This chapter may not be construed to limit
an eligible institution's authority to determine individual student enrollment
19 ~~administration or one of the student's secondary school teachers following an assessment~~
20 ~~of the student by the school administration.; and~~

21 Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

22 **7. Public tuition.** The student is a resident of the State who:

23 A. Is enrolled in a school administrative unit or in a magnet school pursuant to chapter
24 312 in the State;

25 B. Is enrolled in a private school approved for tuition purposes;

26 C. Is enrolled in a school administrative unit as a tuition student pursuant to chapter
27 219 or a private school approved for tuition purposes; or

28 D. Is a student receiving home instruction as outlined in section 5001-A, subsection 3,
29 paragraph A, subparagraph (4).

30 Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §4772, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §§1 to 3, is
31 further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

32 This chapter may not be construed to limit an eligible institution's authority to
33 determine individual student enrollment.

34 Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §4772-A, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §4, is
35 repealed.

36 Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §4772-B, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 400, §1, is amended
37 to read:

38 A student who meets the requirements of this section is eligible to participate in
39 postsecondary courses at an eligible institution under this section, subject to the

1 requirements and conditions of sections 4774 ~~to 4776 and 4775~~. Notwithstanding section
2 15672, subsection 32, a student described in this section is considered to be a subsidizable
3 pupil for purposes of receiving the subsidy provided in this chapter.

4 Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

5 3. Transcript. A high school shall record the number of credits awarded and the
6 corresponding postsecondary institution granting the credits on a student's high school
7 transcript.

8 Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

9 4. Secondary school lifetime credit cap. A secondary school student is eligible to
10 receive state subsidy for postsecondary courses up to a lifetime credit cap of 18 total credits.

11 Sec. 11. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

12 5. Early college career pathway lifetime credit cap. A career and technical
13 education student in a designated early college career pathway is eligible to receive state
14 subsidy for postsecondary courses up to a lifetime credit cap of 24 total credits.

15 Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §4775, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §8, is
16 repealed.

17 Sec. 13. 20-A MRSA §4775, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §8, is further
18 amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

19 Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the department shall reimburse each eligible institution for
all Aspirations-eligible courses within student credit limits at the cost of in-state tuition up to the
maximum rate, calculated as follows: 50% of the average in-state tuition rate for the highest and lowest
in-state tuition rates established by the University of Maine System for eligible institutions within the
system. Funds appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter must be in
addition to the customary and ongoing amounts appropriated for general purpose aid for local schools.

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22 Sec. 14. 20-A MRSA §4776, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. VVV, §2, is
23 repealed.