

Representative Millett Proposed Amendment
LD 334, An Act to Help Maine Students Catch Up and Keep Up by Providing Remedial and Compensatory Assistance in Response to Education Disruption

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic students have experienced significant disruption to their educations and are at risk for severe learning loss; and

Whereas, emergency measures are necessary to help these students to succeed in school and in life; and

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA § 12723 is enacted to read:

§12723. 2020 and 2021 High School Graduates Tuition Waiver

Any student who graduated from a high school in this State in the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year may attend the system free of tuition charges for two school years. The system may request federal funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 that provides stimulus funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic and additional General Fund appropriations from the Legislature to offset the reduction in tuition revenues.

Sec. 2. School administrative units to provide summer academic programs; funding.

For students scoring below proficient in English Language Arts or Math accord to local assessment, each school administrative unit shall offer summer academic programs that provide 124 hours of in person instruction. School administrative units shall provide in person instruction in accordance with any guidelines related to school-based instruction established by the Maine Center for Disease Control. The Department of Education shall reimburse school administrative units for the costs associated with delivering summer academic programs using any federal funding, including but limited to funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 that provides stimulus funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic available for this purpose and General Funds.

Sec. 3. Administrators for tutoring programs. Using any federal funding, including but not limited to funding allocated to the State in any federal law enacted after December 15, 2020 that provides stimulus funds due to the COVID-19 pandemic available, the Department of Education shall provide funding for an administrator of a tutoring program for eligible school administrative units. To be eligible for these funds, each school administrative unit must have volunteers providing tutoring to students for a minimum of 30 minutes, 3 times a week during

summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 school year. Funds provided pursuant to this section must be prioritized by the percentage of students at each school administrative unit eligible for federal free and reduced lunch programs, with the school administrative units with higher percentages of eligible students receiving priority for funds.

Sec. 2. Emergency Clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This proposed amendment, which includes an emergency preamble, does the following:

1. It provides a tuition waiver to the Maine Community College System for two years for any Maine high school graduate who graduated during the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year. The Maine Community College System may request additional federal stimulus funds or general fund appropriations from the Legislature to offset this cost.
2. It requires school administrative units to provide summer academic programs, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control guidelines, for students who are scoring below proficient in English and Math based on local assessment, and provides that the Department of Education shall reimburse school administrative units using federal stimulus funds and the General Fund.
3. It provides that for school administrative units with volunteer tutors for Summer 2021 and the 2020-21 school year, the Department of Education shall use federal stimulus funds to fund an administrator for the tutoring program. Funds provided pursuant to this section must be prioritized by the percentage of students at each school administrative unit who is eligible for federal free and reduced lunch programs.