



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2099

H.P. 1414

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

**An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary
Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses**

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

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

R. B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SARGENT of York.

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" means the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy. "Semester" means the fall, spring or summer term of an academic year. "Academic year" means one full academic cycle that includes a 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 XX, §1, is repealed.

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

17 **6. Recommendation.** The student has received a recommendation to take a postsecondary course or courses at an eligible institution from the student's school administration or one of the student's secondary school teachers following an assessment 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 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 determine individual student enrollment.

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 XX, §4, is repealed.

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

38 A student who meets the requirements of this section is eligible to participate in 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, in collaboration with
20 eligible institutions, shall determine annually a process for the reimbursement of tuition up
21 to a lifetime credit cap of 18 total credits per student. Funds appropriated to the department
22 to carry out the purposes of this chapter must be in addition to the customary and ongoing
23 amounts appropriated for general purpose aid for local schools.

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25 repealed.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill updates certain eligibility and academic requirements for secondary school
28 students receiving a state subsidy for postsecondary courses. The bill also requires the
29 Department of Education, in collaboration with eligible institutions, to determine annually
30 a process for the reimbursement of tuition.