



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 384

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H.P. 259

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

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**An Act To Allow Spouses and Children of Veterans Killed in the  
Line of Duty To Receive the State Tuition Waiver**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative VILLA of Harrison.  
Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and  
Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, CROCKETT of Bethel, DICKERSON of  
Rockland, GILBERT of Jay, HAMANN of South Portland, McLEAN of Gorham, SAUCIER  
of Presque Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12553**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 234, §§4 to 6, is further  
3 amended to read:

4 **§12553. Tuition waiver**

5 The child or spouse of a firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~ emergency medical  
6 services person or member of the United States Armed Forces who has been killed or  
7 who has received an injury during the performance of that firefighter's, law enforcement  
8 officer's ~~or~~ emergency medical services person's or member of the United States Armed  
9 Forces' duties, which results in death, may attend, as provided in this section, any state  
10 postsecondary educational institution free of tuition charges.

11 **1. Eligibility of a child.** The child of a firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~  
12 emergency medical services person or member of the United States Armed Forces is  
13 eligible for tuition waiver under this chapter if the child is:

- 14 A. The natural or legally adopted child of a firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~  
15 emergency medical services person or member of the United States Armed Forces;
- 16 B. ~~Is less~~ Less than 21 years old at the time of the death of the parent who is a  
17 firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~ emergency medical services person or  
18 member of the United States Armed Forces;
- 19 C. A Maine resident;
- 20 D. A high school graduate or has attained equivalent certification; and
- 21 E. Accepted for admission to a state postsecondary educational institution.

22 **1-A. Eligibility of a spouse.** The spouse of a firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~  
23 emergency medical services person or member of the United States Armed Forces is  
24 eligible for tuition waiver under this chapter if the spouse is:

- 25 A. Legally married to the firefighter, law enforcement officer ~~or~~ emergency medical  
26 services person or member of the United States Armed Forces at the time of the  
27 firefighter's, law enforcement officer's ~~or~~ emergency medical services person's or  
28 member of the United States Armed Forces' death;
- 29 B. A Maine resident;
- 30 C. A high school graduate or has attained equivalent certification; and
- 31 D. Accepted for admission to a state postsecondary educational institution.

32 **2. Limitation.** The tuition waiver provided by this chapter is limited to  
33 undergraduate degree programs and is limited to not more than 5 years of full-time  
34 enrollment or its equivalent.

35 **3. Continuation.** The tuition waiver provided by this chapter is awarded on a yearly  
36 basis and continues to be available, if the child or spouse is otherwise eligible under this

1 section, as long as the child or spouse remains in good academic standing at a state  
2 institution.

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### **SUMMARY**

4 This bill provides tuition waivers to state postsecondary educational institutions for  
5 spouses and children of members of the United States Armed Forces who have been  
6 killed or injured while on duty. This tuition waiver is currently available for spouses and  
7 children of firefighters, law enforcement officers and emergency medical services  
8 persons who have been killed or injured while on duty.