

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

H.P. 297 - L.D. 388

An Act To Recognize Employee Background Checks Conducted for Out-of-state Schools Eligible for Maine Tuition Assistance

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

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period so that it applies to the next school year; 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,

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5808, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

§5808. Schools outside state

The tuition payment for students educated in whole in another state or country may not exceed the average per pupil cost in all secondary schools of this State. The legislative body of the school administrative unit may vote to authorize its school board to pay a larger tuition rate.

For an out-of-state secondary school that serves a student who resides in a school administrative unit that does not maintain a secondary school, the tuition payment may not be withheld solely because persons regularly employed in that school do not meet the requirements of section 6103, as long as those persons are required to meet background check standards in that state determined by the commissioner to be equivalent to the requirements of section 6103. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, an out-of-state secondary school that was included on the list of approved out-of-state secondary schools maintained by the department for the 2017-2018 school year must continue to receive tuition payments under this section for any student who was enrolled at that school for the 2018-2019 school year. Tuition payments must continue for such a student until that student graduates or terminates enrollment.

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