



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2165

H.P. 1549

House of Representatives, March 17, 2020

**An Act To Provide Support to Students, Staff and Faculty at
Postsecondary Educational Institutions for Temporary Closures
Due to Infectious Diseases**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTEAU of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec and
Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor,
RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SAMPSON of Alfred.

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

3 **Whereas,** certain postsecondary educational institutions in the State have
4 temporarily suspended classes and are requiring students to remain off campus due to
5 safety concerns caused by COVID-19, an infectious disease; and

6 **Whereas,** students and staff and faculty of these institutions may be financially
7 affected by the temporary suspensions; and

8 **Whereas,** this legislation must take effect before the end of the 90-day period to
9 address, as soon as possible, the financial effects on students and staff and faculty; and

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

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

15 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10015** is enacted to read:

16 **§10015. Temporary suspension of classes due to infectious disease**

17 **1. Reimbursement.** A postsecondary educational institution in the State that
18 temporarily suspends classes and requires students to remain off campus due to safety
19 concerns caused by an infectious disease, including the novel coronavirus disease referred
20 to as COVID-19 by the World Health Organization and referred to in this section as
21 "COVID-19," shall reimburse a student on a pro rata basis any unused fees previously
22 paid to the institution by the student, including, but not limited to, the cost of room and
23 board and fees for parking, student activities, labs and technology and, if classes are not
24 conducted remotely or through an alternate method as determined appropriate by the
25 institution, tuition.

26 **2. Plan for certain students' housing and dining.** A postsecondary educational
27 institution in the State that temporarily suspends classes and requires students to remain
28 off campus due to safety concerns caused by an infectious disease, including COVID-19,
29 shall develop a plan to allow certain students, based on a student's individual
30 circumstances, to remain on campus and to provide housing and dining options to those
31 students.

32 **3. Plan for staff and faculty.** A postsecondary educational institution in the State
33 that temporarily suspends classes and requires staff and faculty to remain off campus due
34 to safety concerns caused by an infectious disease, including COVID-19, shall develop a
35 plan, in consultation with the department and the Department of Labor, to compensate
36 staff and faculty for lost compensation due to the temporary suspension.

37 **Sec. 2. Retroactivity.** This Act applies retroactively to February 1, 2020.

