1	L.D. 878
2	Date: (Filing No. H-)
3	EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
4	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
5	STATE OF MAINE
6	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7	127TH LEGISLATURE
8	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
9 10	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "" to H.P. 597, L.D. 878, Bill, "An Act To Support College Affordability in Maine"
11 12	Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:
13	'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11459, sub-§§1-A, 1-B and 3-A are enacted to read:
14 15 16 17 18	<u>1-A. Consolidation loan.</u> "Consolidation loan" means a loan under this chapter to or for the benefit of an individual made for the purpose of refinancing education loans that, when made, were made to or for the benefit of a student then enrolled in an eligible program of study at an institution of higher education that meets the other requirements of this chapter.
19 20 21 22 23	<u>1-B. Education loan.</u> "Education loan" means a loan made by the Federal Government under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Chapter 28, Title IV, Part B, as amended, or a loan made by a regulated financial institution for the express purpose of financing the costs of higher education under a program designed solely for such purposes.
24 25 26	<b>3-A. Student loan.</b> "Student loan" means a loan under this chapter to or for the benefit of a student enrolled or to be enrolled in an eligible program of study at an institution of higher education that meets the other requirements of this chapter.
27 28	Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §11460, as amended by PL 2013, c. 34, §5, is further amended to read:
29	§11460. Eligibility
30 31 32 33	Loans made or insured under this chapter must be either student loans or consolidation loans. Loans made or insured under this chapter are available only to or for the benefit of a resident of the State or an individual attending an institution of higher education in the State who:

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1 **1. Graduated.** Has For a student loan, has graduated from an approved secondary 2 school, matriculated at a postsecondary school prior to high school graduation or 3 successfully completed a high school equivalency diploma or its equivalent;

Accepted. Has For a student loan, has been accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate or graduate student or is in good standing as an undergraduate or graduate student at an institution of higher education in an eligible program of study;

**3.** Application. Has applied for a loan under the program and has provided or
caused to be provided all information determined necessary by the authority in order to
determine eligibility;

4. Unmet need. Has For a student loan, has been determined by the authority to
have an unmet need for financial assistance that, if not met, will prevent the student from
attending the institution of higher education of that student's choice;

**5. Residency.** Meets the state residency or, for a student loan, school attendance
requirements that may be established by the authority by rule;

6. Loan repayment. Has been determined by the authority to have a reasonable prospect of being able to repay the loan. In appropriate cases, the authority may allow repayments to be deferred and subordinated to repayment of other student loans for such period of time as may be necessary for the borrower to be able to afford to repay the loan; and

20 7. Minimum academic progress. Is For a student loan, is making satisfactory 21 academic progress in accordance with the standards of that institution of higher 22 education.'

 23 SUMMARY
24 This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. It allows the Finance Authority of Maine to provide consolidation loans for student debt of Maine students as part of its existing Higher Education Loan and Loan Insurance Program.
27 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
28 (See attached)

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## **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**