An Act to Update the Maine State Grant Program

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

Sec. 1.  20-A MRSA §11611, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2001, c. 70, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 2.  20-A MRSA §11611, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Student aid index. "Student aid index" means a calculation that reflects an evaluation of a student's approximate financial resources to contribute toward the student's postsecondary education for an academic year.

Sec. 3.  20-A MRSA §11613, first ¶, as amended by PL 2003, c. 103, §1, is further amended to read:

The authority shall establish the need of a student for a Maine State Grant for an academic year for which the student applies. A student is considered to have a need to qualify for a grant if the total of the cost of attendance of the student, minus the expected family contribution for the student, minus estimated student financial assistance not received under this program, is greater than zero. The total of the expected family contribution, together with any other student financial assistance received by the student, in doing so, the authority shall consider the cost of attendance of the student, the student aid index and estimated student financial assistance not received under this program. The total cost determined by these factors may not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution the student attends.

Sec. 4.  20-A MRSA §11613, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 559, §10, is repealed.

Sec. 5.  20-A MRSA §11614, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2001, c. 70, §8, is further amended to read:

1. Priority for awards of grants. Students with the lowest expected family contributions student aid index must be given priority over all other eligible students for the awards of grants.