

Annual List of Rulemaking Activity
Rules Adopted January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023
Prepared by the Secretary of State pursuant to 5 MRS §8053-A(5)

Agency name: Finance Authority of Maine (FAME)
Umbrella-Unit: 94-457
Statutory authority: 10 M.R.S.A. § 969-A; 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 11617(2); P.L 2023, ch. 23
Chapter number/title: Ch. 601, Maine State Grant Program
Filing number: 2023-234
Effective date: 11/20/2023
Type of rule: Routine Technical
Emergency rule: No

Principal reason or purpose for rule:

The rule implements technical changes to the Maine State Grant Program as enacted by the Legislature through P.L 2023, ch. 23. Following enactment of federal legislation related to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) simplification, the governing program statute and rule need to be updated to reflect usage of the new term Student Aid Index (SAI) instead of Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Basis statement:

This Rule implements changes made during the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature via L.D. 32, *An Act to Update the Maine State Grant Program*, and now set forth in law as P.L. 2023, chapter 23. The change in program terminology from "Expected Family Contribution" or "EFC" to "Student Aid Index" or "SAI" is necessary following changes at the federal level as part of simplification of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Rule also makes clear that the total financial aid received by a program participant from all sources may not exceed the cost of attendance at the institution the student attends.

In summary, FAME is adopting this Rule to implement P .L. 2023, chapter 23 and conform the Maine State Grant Program to federal changes.

Fiscal impact of rule:

The rule is not anticipated to have any fiscal impact.

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Agency name: Finance Authority of Maine (FAME)
Umbrella-Unit: 94-457
Statutory authority: P.L. 2009, Ch. 488; 20-A M.R.S.A. §12124; P.L. 2021, Ch. 725
20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 12121-12125
Chapter number/title: Ch. 618, Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program, *Amendment*
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Filing number: 2023-007
Effective date: 1/10/2023
Type of rule: Routine Technical
Emergency rule: No

Principal reason or purpose for rule:

This proposed rule conforms the governing program rule with statutory changes made by the 130th Legislature to the program.

Basis statement:

The rule is promulgated for the Authority to implement the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program as amended by the Legislature through LD. 1885, *An Act to Increase Maine's Veterinary Workforce*, now P.L. 2021, ch. 725.

No public hearing was held on the draft rule amendment and the Authority did not receive any comments on the proposed amendment.

In accordance with 5 M.R.S. 8052(4) and Executive Order No. 4 FY 19/20, the Authority has considered:

1. the environmental and social impacts of the rule amendment, with the goal of prioritizing the health safety and welfare of Maine people, and find that the rule amendment will have no negative environmental or social impacts requiring such prioritization; and
2. the economic and fiscal impacts of the rule amendment, including the extent to which other laws and regulations address the rule subject matter and the impact on employers in retaining and attracting a skilled workforce, and find that (a) the rule amendment will have no adverse economic or fiscal impact; (b) no other laws or regulations address the rule subject matter; and (c) the rule amendment will have no adverse effect on employers' ability to retain and attract a skilled workforce.

Fiscal impact of rule:

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT – SMALL BUSINESSES

The rule amendment is not expected to have any adverse impacts on small businesses.

FISCAL IMPACT NOTE

The rule amendment will not impose any costs on municipalities or counties.

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Agency name: Finance Authority of Maine (FAME)
Umbrella-Unit: 94-457
Statutory authority: 10 MRS § 969-A; 10 MRS § 1100-AA
Chapter number/title: Ch. 619, Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program
Filing number: 2023-235
Effective date: 11/20/2023
Type of rule: Routine Technical
Emergency rule: No

Principal reason or purpose for rule:

The rule amendments implement recent changes by the Legislature to the governing program statute. These changes include changing the program from a loan to a grant and increasing maximum available grant amounts from up to \$700 to up to \$1,000 per eligible recipient.

Basis statement:

This Rule implements changes made during the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature via L.D. 1169, *An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program*, and now set forth as P.L. 2023, chapter 456. The law changes the program from a zero-interest loan to a grant program. It also increases the maximum allowable distribution of funds per applicant from \$700 to \$1,000. In summary, FAME is adopting this Rule to implement P.L. 2023, chapter 456.

Fiscal impact of rule:

The amendment is not anticipated to have any fiscal impact aside from changing the program from one involving loans to grants, as well as increasing maximum allowable grant awards from up to \$700 to up to \$1,000 per eligible recipient.