

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
AT THE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

January 4, 1978 to April 6, 1978

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

(No laws enacted)

September 6, 1978 to September 15, 1978

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

October 18, 1978

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

December 6, 1978

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PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS  
OF THE

**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

January 4, 1978 to April 6, 1978

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

Allocation of funds for the construction of a state highway in the Indian Reservation of Indian Island. The following funds shall be allocated from the General Highway Surplus Fund to the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Highways:

1978-79

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Highways

Allocation

All Other \$30,000

These funds shall be used to construct an access road to the housing project designated ME 12-3, "Phase 2 Housing Project," located on the Penobscot Tribal Reservation. Any balance on June 30, 1979, shall carry forward until the purpose for which the allocation is made shall be accomplished.

Effective July 6, 1978

## CHAPTER 104

### AN ACT Concerning Pilot Projects for more Effective and Efficient Delivery of Services to Preschool Handicapped Children.

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

Whereas, sufficient time is needed to accomplish the preparatory work necessary to select pilot projects prior to the beginning of the new fiscal 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. Definitions.** As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings.

1. Handicapped child. "Handicapped child" means any child who requires special services in the area of vision, audition, speech, language, cerebral or perceptual functions, physical mobility functions, behavior, mental development or maturation, or multiples of these functions.

2. Preschool handicapped child. "Preschool handicapped child" means any handicapped child who has reached the age of 3 and who has not yet reached the age of 5, or whose 5th birthday falls after October 15th and has not yet reached the age of 6.

**Sec. 2. Purpose.** It is the purpose of this legislation to stimulate through the activities of pilot projects a more effective and efficient delivery of services to preschool handicapped children by:

1. Coordination. Coordinating existing programs presently provided for these children by the Departments of Human Services, Mental Health and Corrections, Educational and Cultural Services and other public and private agencies;

2. Delivery. Delivering services only to meet identified unmet needs; and

3. Future recommendations. Using results of these pilot projects to determine the best direction for future recommendations to serve this population of children.

**Sec. 3. Interdepartmental cooperation.** The Commissioners of the Departments of Human Services, Educational and Cultural Services and Mental Health and Corrections shall establish an interdepartmental coordinating committee for preschool handicapped children.

1. Membership. Each commissioner shall appoint at least one representative from his department to serve on this committee. Additional members representing the public sector shall be appointed by the 3 commissioners.

2. Responsibilities. It shall be the responsibility of this committee, under the direction of the 3 commissioners, to select pilot projects and monitor the progress of these pilot projects. It shall also be the responsibility of this committee to develop a plan, using the results of the pilot projects, for effective delivery of services to preschool handicapped children.

3. Staff. The 3 commissioners shall jointly appoint an interdepartmental coordinator for preschool handicapped children to serve as staff to the committee.

**Sec. 4. Pilot projects.** Through a competitive grant process the committee shall select pilot project sites designed to demonstrate the effective delivery of services to preschool handicapped children by coordinating existing programs, where possible, and establishing a mechanism for ongoing coordination of programs for preschool handicapped children at a local or regional level, including local educational agencies, community mental health centers, regional mental retardation services, regional human service programs and other public

and private agencies as appropriate. Each pilot project shall establish a method to identify unserved and underserved preschool handicapped children and develop services for those children.

**Sec. 5. Evaluation.** Continuous evaluation of the pilot projects shall be required and shall be an integral part of each pilot project. The committee shall determine the expected outcome goals of the pilot projects and shall cause to be developed an evaluation design to determine the success of the pilot projects.

The 3 commissioners shall present to the Legislature an interim report prior to December 15, 1978. This report shall provide an assessment of the planning efforts of the State Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Handicapped Children. In addition, this report shall contain any recommendations, including legislation for the continuation or expansion of the pilot projects.

The 3 commissioners shall also present to the Legislature a final report prior to December 15, 1979. This report shall provide an evaluation summary of the pilot projects and recommendations, including legislation, necessary to initiate a service delivery system with an implementation schedule to begin July 1, 1980.

**Sec. 6. Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act:

	1978-79
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,	
DEPARTMENT OF	
All Other	\$150,000

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective March 30, 1978

## CHAPTER 105

### AN ACT Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds by the Town of Houlton to Acquire Certain Assets of Ricker College.

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

Whereas, Ricker College, a corporation created by the private and special laws of 1847, chapter 10, has suffered severe financial problems and is currently operating under the jurisdiction of the courts of the United States of America pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Act and may cease operations in whole or in