MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1842

H. P. 1400

Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Gahagan of Caribou.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Certification of Teachers in Private Preschool Programs.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 59, amended. The 2nd sentence of section 59 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 45 of chapter 544 of the public laws of 1967, and as amended by section 21 of chapter 610 of the public laws of 1971, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The commissioner shall, in accordance with such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, authorize the certification of adult education teachers, teachers in private kindergartens and private nursery schools and other teaching and professional personnel in publicly supported education programs other than those in the public schools, post-high school institutes, colleges and universities.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 20, § 1751, amended. The first paragraph of section 1751 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 2 of chapter 79 and as amended by section 3 of chapter 335, both of the public laws of 1967, is further amended to read as follows:

Certificates shall be issued by the commissioner, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, to teachers and other professional personnel for service in any public elementary or secondary school in the State or in any such nonpublic school as accepts public funds for tuition. **Teachers in nonpublic educational programs may be certified on a voluntary basis.** Authorizations may be granted by the commissioner, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, for the employment of teacher aides, teacher assistants or other semi-professional semiprofessional personnel for service in the kinds of schools described in this section in section 59.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would establish standards and requirements for certification of teachers in private nursery schools and other preschool programs. The intent is to insure the welfare and safety of children enrolled in private preschool programs.

This proposal has been considered by concerned parents, nursery school owners, administrators, teachers and the public in a series of meetings in various parts of the State. A Task Force Committee and the public meetings have provided a draft of regulations which the Commissioner would consider in implementing this law.