

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 165**

S. P. 75

In Senate, January 24, 1979

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

Presented by Senator Ault of Kennebec.

MAY M ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

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**AN ACT Concerning the Continuation of Pilot Projects for More Effective and Efficient Delivery of Services to Preschool Handicapped Children.**

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

Whereas, the current funding for pilot sites established in June, 1978, expires on June 30, 1979; and

Whereas, these sites cannot continue unless sufficient funds are appropriated before that date; 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. Purpose.** The pilot sites, which were established by P&SL 1977, c. 104 and which are in effect as of the date of the enactment of this legislation, may be continued until June 30, 1980. In addition, the position of an early childhood consultant to the Division of Special Education of the Department of Educational

and Cultural Services, shall be continued. The duties of this position include the specific responsibility to serve as staff to the State Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Handicapped Children.

**Sec. 2. Interdepartmental coordination.** The Commissioners of Human Services, Educational and Cultural Services and Mental Health and Corrections shall continue the interdepartmental coordinating committee established under P&SL 1977, c. 104, for preschool handicapped children in order to complete the task of monitoring the pilot sites and to develop a plan, using the results of the pilot projects, for the effective delivery of services to preschool handicapped children.

**Sec. 3. Final report.** In compliance with P&SL 1977, c. 104, the 3 commissioners shall 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. 4. Appropriation.** The following funds shall be appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

		1979-80
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(2)	\$ 27,000
All Other		170,000
		\$197,000
	Total	\$197,000

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

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

There is an undisputed need to serve handicapped children as early in life as possible. The informal evaluation of the function of the State Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Handicapped Children and the progress of the pilot sites indicates a need to continue the pilot sites with the necessary administrative support. This continuation is also needed to determine the structure which will most effectively serve these children while making the most of existing resources. It is the intent of this legislation to continue the original pilot sites presently in operation in order to provide the best data base possible for making this determination and to continue the administrative support necessary to accomplish this task.