

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1157

S. P. 377

In Senate, March 13, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Pierce of Kennebec.

Cosponsor: Senator Conley of Cumberland

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Authorize the Provision of Services of Developmentally Disabled  
Children.

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

22 MRSA § 9, sub-§ 4 is enacted to read:

4. **Developmental day care services.** The department shall provide and shall establish a sliding fee scale for the provision of center based developmental day care services for preschool children with developmental disabilities as authorized under the United States Social Security Act, Title XX, as amended.

Services provided pursuant to this subsection shall be available to all eligible preschool children regardless of their family income.

Services to eligible children of individuals and families whose adjusted gross income is at or below 80% of the median personal income for residents of the State shall be made available at no cost to the individual or family.

A sliding fee scale no higher than the applicable scale under subsection 3 shall be applied to eligible children of individuals and families whose adjusted gross income is between 80% and 115% of the median personal income for residents of the State.

**For eligible children of individuals and families whose adjusted gross income is over 115% of the median personal income for residents of the State, a sliding fee scale that is proportionately related to the applicable scale under subsection 3 shall be developed and applied.**

**No individual or family required to contribute to the cost of services provided pursuant to this subsection shall pay a weekly fee greater than 10% of their annual adjusted gross income divided by 52.**

**The department shall coordinate these services with other state agencies, so as to ensure that no unnecessary duplication of services will occur.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The United States Social Security Act, Title XX, as amended, income eligibility guidelines, as presently administered through the Bureau of Resource Development, acts to exclude middle income families with developmentally disabled children from receiving specialized day care services. While present law permits a parent to pay full price for such services, \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year, few middle income families are able to afford them. The higher incidence of medical complications and the ineligibility of the middle class for Medicaid benefits further aggravate the problem.

This bill authorizes the department to provide developmental day care services for preschool children with developmental disabilities. These services would be provided to all children in need of them.

The cost of the services would come from payments made by participating families on a sliding fee scale comparable to that imposed for traditional day care services, from the United States Social Security Act, Title XX funds and from the State.