

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1882

H. P. 1756

House of Representatives, January 25, 1980

On Motion of Mr. Tierney of Lisbon, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Mrs. Mitchell of Vassalboro.

Cosponsors: Mr. Garsoe of Cumberland and Mr. Diamond of Windham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

AN ACT to Provide for the Education of Preschool Handicapped Children.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA c. 406 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 406

PRESCHOOL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

§ 3201. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to maintain coordinated delivery systems for preschool handicapped children based on the models developed through pilot projects.

§ 3202. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Preschool handicapped children. "Preschool handicapped children" means any child who has attained 3 years of age on or before October 15th of any school year and who has not yet attained the age of 5 on or before October 15th of

any school year, and who requires special services in the areas of vision, hearing, speech and language, cerebral or perceptual functions, physical mobility functions, behavior, mental development or maturation, or any combination thereof, as defined by the commissioner, so that his educational potential may be realized.

2. Services. "Services" means those activities undertaken to screen, evaluate and provide special education and related services to preschool handicapped children.

§ 3203. Authorization for expenditure of funds

The commissioner may, from funds authorized to the department, make grants to agencies, institutions and school administrative units to enable them to establish local coordinated delivery systems to serve preschool handicapped children. Grants will be made on a competitive basis, according to guidelines established by the department. The guidelines will assure participation at the local level by programs and agencies currently serving preschool handicapped children, and shall require that existing resources for providing services to preschool handicapped children be exhausted prior to using grant funds to provide services.

§ 3204. Interdepartmental coordination

An Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee for Preschool Handicapped Children, representing the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, the Department of Human Services, the Department Mental Health and Corrections and the public sector, shall be appointed by the 3 commissioners to work with the department to establish grant guidelines, including continuation applications, to monitor grants and to evaluate the performance of programs developed through the grants.

§ 3205. Early childhood consultant

The position of early childhood consultant to the Division of Special Education shall be established to direct the department's participation in the coordinated delivery system for preschool handicapped children in the State.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1980-81
EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,	
DEPARTMENT OF	
Positions	(2)
Personal Services	\$ 30,000
All Other	420,000
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$450,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The pilot projects temporarily established by earlier legislation have demonstrated an effective system for coordinating existing programs and resources in order to better serve preschool handicapped children. This bill provides a legislative base for the 3 departments to continue the existing pilot projects and provide for a modest expansion of the system. The \$450,000 appropriation will provide funding for administrative support and the continuation of the 7 existing projects as well as permitting the establishment of 2 additional ones. The personal services' request will support an early childhood consultant and a secretary in the Department of Educational and Cultural Services.