

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 500

H. P. 453

House of Representatives, January 29, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Ketover of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Amend the Eligibility Age for Preschool Handicapped Children.

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

20 MRSA § 3202, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 727, § 1, is amended to read:

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 :~~

A. 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; and

B. Who meets the following age criteria:

(1) For screening purposes, has not attained 5 years of age on or before October 15th of any school year; or

(2) For program services, is 3 years of age but has not attained 5 years of age on or before October 15th of any school year.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill allows the State to use the preschool projects to meet its child find obligations for handicapped children from birth to age 3. It allows the projects to provide services to all handicapped children from age 3 rather than requiring a child who is age 3 on October 16th to wait until the start of the following school year before receiving services.