

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 658

6
7 S.P. 221

In Senate, February 9, 1983

8 Submitted by the Department of Educational and Cultural Services
9 pursuant to Joint Rule 24.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Diamond of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Randall of East Machias, Representative
Locke of Sebec and Representative Bost of Orono.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Amend the Statutes Relating
18 to Coordination Services for Preschool
19 Handicapped Children.
20

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

23 20-A MRSA §7703, sub-§§3 and 4 are enacted to
24 read:

25 3. Fiscal agent. The agency, institution or
26 school administrative unit receiving a grant under
27 this chapter may function only in the role of fiscal
28 agent, as described in regulations promulgated by the
29 department for regulating the local administration of
30 these programs.

31 4. Local coordinating committee. A local coordi-
32 nating committee, organized prior to application for

1 receipt of a grant, shall be responsible for gover-
2 nance of each local program. Membership shall include
3 representatives of preschool programs in the region
4 to be served by the grant, representatives of the
5 appropriate regional offices of the Department of
6 Human Services and the Department of Mental Health
7 and Mental Retardation, representatives of participa-
8 ting school administrative units, parents of handi-
9 capped children and other community members as appro-
10 priate. Terms of membership and methods of appoint-
11 ment or election shall be determined by local coordi-
12 nating committee bylaws, subject to approval of the
13 department. Responsibilities of local coordinating
14 committees shall be detailed in the regulations
15 promulgated by the department.

16 STATEMENT OF FACT

17 There have been concerns with the governance
18 structure of the preschool handicapped children coor-
19 dination programs. Major issues involve the relation-
20 ship of the local coordinating committees with the
21 fiscal agents for the projects and concerns with lia-
22 bility.

23 This bill limits the responsibility of the fiscal
24 agent to the receipt of grant award funds and dis-
25 bursement of these funds as authorized by the local
26 coordinating committee. It also provides the legal
27 basis for the local coordinating committees to serve
28 as the governing boards of local programs. The repre-
29 sentative membership is consistent with the enabling
30 legislation which required participation at the local
31 level by programs and agencies currently serving pre-
32 school handicapped children.

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