

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1404

6  
7 H.P. 1066

House of Representatives, March 31, 1983

8 Referred to the Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and  
9 ordered printed. Ordered sent forthwith.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Thompson of So. Portland.

Cosponsors: Representative Rolde of York, Representative Mitchell of  
11 Vassalboro and Representative Masterton of Cape Elizabeth.

12 STATE OF MAINE  
13

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

17 AN ACT to Address School Failure in  
18 Kindergarten and Early Elementary Grades.  
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 203, sub-c. II is enacted  
23 to read:

24 SUBCHAPTER II

25 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL PLANS FOR

26 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 3

27 §4251. Intent

28 The intent of this subchapter is to encourage  
29 school administrative units to place an increased  
30 emphasis on instruction and curriculum for all chil-  
31 dren in kindergarten through grade 3.

1     §4252. Program

2             The initiatives local units may elect to develop  
3 may include, but not be limited to, one or more of  
4 the following:

5             1. Class size. Reduce the student-teacher ratio  
6 in all classrooms within one or more grades, kinder-  
7 garten through grade 3, to a recommended ratio of 15  
8 to 1 and maximum ratio of 18 to 1;

9             2. Teacher training. Provide training programs  
10 for teachers in screening, educational diagnosis,  
11 program prescription or program development;

12             3. Screening. Establish or expand preschool or  
13 early childhood screening programs and the develop-  
14 ment of individualized educational prescription based  
15 on the findings of the screening;

16             4. Two-year kindergarten. Encourage the devel-  
17 opment of 2-year kindergartens in conformity with  
18 section 5201, subsection 2, paragraph C;

19             5. Multigrade classrooms. Establish classroom  
20 units of more than one grade level; and

21             6. Learning environment. Develop a learning  
22 environment which would encourage each student to  
23 learn and progress at their own functional level.

24     §4253. Program approval

25             School administrative units wishing to develop  
26 programs shall submit plan proposals for approval to  
27 the department. The department shall monitor the  
28 implementation of the plans and evaluate their effec-  
29 tiveness before the excess costs may be included as  
30 allowable costs under section 4254, subsection 3.

31     §4254. Funding

32             1. Allowable costs. Allowable costs shall be  
33 the excess cost of implementing approved plans.

34             2. First and 2nd years. Allowable costs in the  
35 first and 2nd years shall be funded through a grant

1 made on the basis of \$1 of state matching funds for  
2 each \$1 of funds appropriated by the school adminis-  
3 trative unit. The state match shall be limited to  
4 available funds.

5 3. Third and subsequent years. For plans which  
6 have been evaluated as effective by the department,  
7 allowable costs may be added to the school units  
8 subsidized cost under chapter 605.

9 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§5, ¶¶F and G, as  
10 enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to  
11 read:

12 F. Transportation; and

13 G. Debt service; and

14 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§5, ¶H is enacted  
15 to read:

16 H. Early childhood educational plans.

17 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§16, ¶¶G and H, as  
18 enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to  
19 read:

20 G. Vocational education costs in subsection 24;  
21 and

22 H. Costs of maintaining:

23 (1) The Governor Baxter State School for  
24 the Deaf;

25 (2) The Maine Youth Center;

26 (3) Schools in the unorganized territories  
27 as defined in section 3201; and

28 Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§16, ¶I is enacted  
29 to read:

30 I. Early childhood educational plans.

31 Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§26 is enacted to  
32 read:

1           26. Early childhood educational plans. "Early  
2 childhood educational plans" mean the excess costs of  
3 approved plans implemented under chapter 203, sub-  
4 chapter II.

5           Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §15504, sub-§1, ¶¶N and O, as  
6 enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to  
7 read:

8           N. Local funds raised under section 15512; and

9           O. Cost of state expenditures for teachers'  
10 retirement benefits; and

11           Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §15504, sub-§1, ¶P is enacted  
12 to read:

13           P. Early childhood educational plans.

14           Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §15505, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted  
15 by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

16           A. The requested funding levels of section  
17 15504, subsection 1, paragraph C; paragraph D,  
18 subparagraph (1) and paragraphs E and K; trans-  
19 portation operating costs under paragraph F; and  
20 the insured value factor under paragraph para-  
21 graphs G and P shall be the actual costs for the  
22 base year.

23           Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §15506, as enacted by PL  
24 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

25           §15506. Governor's recommendation for funding levels

26           The Bureau of the Budget shall annually certify  
27 to the Legislature the funding levels which the Gov-  
28 ernor recommends for section 15504, subsection 1,  
29 paragraphs A to K and P, and the state's maximum  
30 obligation under section 15511, subsection 3. The  
31 Governor's recommendations shall be transmitted to  
32 the Legislature within the time schedule set by Title  
33 5, section 1666.

34           Sec. 11. Appropriation. The following funds are  
35 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the  
36 purposes of this Act.

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1983-84            1984-85

HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF

All Other                            \$250,000            \$500,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides for the development of smaller class sizes and encourages programs which provide an effective basic educational program for all children in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3. The bill allows each school administrative unit to develop its own plan for increased emphasis on education for children in the early elementary grades, kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, in order to reduce and eliminate greater and more costly student learning problems in the late grades. It is tailored to meet the local needs of each school unit that chooses to apply to the Department of Educational and Cultural Services for a matching grant of funds. The bill meets:

1. The problem of the vast developmental difference among children ages 5 to 9;
2. The public support for smaller elementary school classes as indicated by 71% of the respondents to the education committee's Maine Education Survey who supported reducing class sizes in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3; and
3. The findings of educational researchers which document the cost effectiveness of early prevention programs in comparison to remedial programs in later grades.

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