## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	FIRST REGUI	LAR SESSION	
ONE H	JNDRED AND TV	VELFTH LEGISLATU	RE
Legislative Docume	nt		No. 1001
S.P. 367		In Senate,	March 13, 1985
Referred to the O	Committee on App and ordered prin	propriations and Financited.	ial Affairs. Sent
	JO	Y J. O'BRIEN, Secreta	ry of the Senate
Presented by Senator Cosponsored by	Clark of Cumber Representative Ne		
	STATE OF	MAINE	
NINE		OF OUR LORD AND EIGHTY-FIVE	
		panded and Innovans in this State	
Be it enacted a follows:	y the People	e of the State of	f Maine as
Sec. 1. 22	MRSA c. 106	3 is enacted to	read:
	CHAPTER	₹ 1063	
GRANTS	FOR NEW, EXE	PANDED, INNOVATIV	<u>/E</u>
	CHILD CARE	PROGRAMS	
§3921. Legisla	tive intent		
expanded and in following order care; before-so	nnovative chi er of prior chool and aft	tical need existed the care program ity: Infant a ter-school care care; resource are	ns in the and toddler of kinder-

- dren of teen parents; and care for children with special needs.
- 2. Intent. The intent of this chapter is to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, quality child care to more families by:
  - A. Encouraging partnerships among state government school systems, child care providers, senior citizens' organizations, employers and health services in creative combinations; and
- B. Providing financial incentives and assistance to any groups listed in paragraph A, utilizing schools, community centers or other public or private facilities.
- 14 §3922. Funds

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- 15 <u>1. Purposes. Funds shall be appropriated annu-</u>
  16 <u>ally for grants to be used for the following pur-</u>
  17 poses:
- 18 A. Start-up purposes;
- B. Expansion of existing programs;
- 20 <u>C. Experimentation with alternative funding</u> 21 mechanisms of child care;
- D. Pilot projects; and
- 23 E. Purchased support services, such as addition-24 al trained staff for special needs care.
- 25 2. Allocation. Funding shall be allocated according to the following percentages: Infant and toddler projects 40%; before-school and after-school projects 10%; resource and referral pilot projects 5%; preschool projects 30%; teen parent projects 10%; and special needs projects 31 5%.
- 32 3. Selection of grantees. Grantees shall be se-133 lected by the Division of Purchased and Support Ser-14 vices in consultation with the Child Care Advisory 15 Committee.

1 2 3	4. Eventual self-sufficiency. Any child care program which applies for funds under this chapter shall demonstrate a plan to become self-sufficient.
4 5 6	Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.
7	1986-87
8	HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
9 10	Purchased Social Services for Child Care
11	All Other \$1,402,500
12	STATEMENT OF FACT
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Maine parents face a shortage of affordable and accessible, quality child care services. Lack of such child care affects not only Maine people but also Maine's economy. Child care enables working parents to seek out and maintain employment. The Maine Child Care Needs Survey indicates that millions of dollars are lost in the Maine economy due to lack of child care.
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	In Maine and nationally, the fastest-growing need for child care is from parents whose children are age 3 years and younger; almost half (48.7% or 20,860) of all children under age 2 1/2 years in Maine have mothers in the labor force; only about 10% of these children are cared for in licensed or registered facilities.
28 29 30 31 32 33	There are nearly 25,000 children age 6 to 12 years in Maine who spend an average of 4 hours unsupervised each week; about 41% of Maine's parents of school-age children want more before-school and after-school programs, either in the schools or through outside programs, or both.

1 Child care resource and referral systems can help 2 parents locate quality child care services, as 3 well as identify child care needs in a community and effectively link supply with demand. 4 5 critical shortage of quality, affordable, accessible preschool child care exists in Maine. 6 7 Child care can be the key factor in helping teen 8 parents complete high school and adequately care for their children. In 1982, of the 2,192 births in Maine, teenagers accounted for 13.3% of all 9 10 11 live births. Children with physical, developmental or emotion-12 13 al handicaps can benefit enormously from a child care experience; only 3.5% of Maine's school-age 14 children with special needs and only 13.2% of 15 16 Maine's preschool children with special needs are in regulated child care facilities. 17 18 Quality early childhood programs can help reduce 19 special education costs, prevent school dropout and

juvenile delinquency and child abuse, all of which result in high costs to society.

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