

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1001

6
7 S.P. 367

In Senate, March 13, 1985

8 Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent
9 down for concurrence and ordered printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Clark of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative Nelson of Portland.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Fund New, Expanded and Innovative
18 Child Care Programs in this State.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1063 is enacted to read:

23 CHAPTER 1063

24 GRANTS FOR NEW, EXPANDED, INNOVATIVE

25 CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

26 §3921. Legislative intent

27 1. Priorities. A critical need exists for new,
28 expanded and innovative child care programs in the
29 following order of priority: Infant and toddler
30 care; before-school and after-school care of kinder-
31 garten and school-age children; resource and referral
32 systems; preschool child care; child care for chil-

1 dren of teen parents; and care for children with spe-
2 cial needs.

3 2. Intent. The intent of this chapter is to in-
4 crease the availability of affordable, accessible,
5 quality child care to more families by:

6 A. Encouraging partnerships among state govern-
7 ment school systems, child care providers, senior
8 citizens' organizations, employers and health
9 services in creative combinations; and

10 B. Providing financial incentives and assistance
11 to any groups listed in paragraph A, utilizing
12 schools, community centers or other public or
13 private facilities.

14 §3922. Funds

15 1. Purposes. Funds shall be appropriated annu-
16 ally for grants to be used for the following pur-
17 poses:

18 A. Start-up purposes;

19 B. Expansion of existing programs;

20 C. Experimentation with alternative funding
21 mechanisms of child care;

22 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 ac-
26 ording to the following percentages: Infant and
27 toddler projects - 40%; before-school and
28 after-school projects - 10%; resource and referral
29 pilot projects - 5%; preschool projects - 30%; teen
30 parent projects - 10%; and special needs projects -
31 5%.

32 3. Selection of grantees. Grantees shall be se-
33 lected by the Division of Purchased and Support Ser-
34 vices in consultation with the Child Care Advisory
35 Committee.

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
4 and effectively link supply with demand.

5 A critical shortage of quality, affordable, ac-
6 cessible preschool child care exists in Maine.

7 Child care can be the key factor in helping teen
8 parents complete high school and adequately care
9 for their children. In 1982, of the 2,192 births
10 in Maine, teenagers accounted for 13.3% of all
11 live births.

12 Children with physical, developmental or emotion-
13 al handicaps can benefit enormously from a child
14 care experience; only 3.5% of Maine's school-age
15 children with special needs and only 13.2% of
16 Maine's preschool children with special needs are
17 in regulated child care facilities.

18 Quality early childhood programs can help reduce
19 special education costs, prevent school dropout and
20 juvenile delinquency and child abuse, all of which
21 result in high costs to society.

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