

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 (New Draft of S.P. 131, L.D. 371)  
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
3

4 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
5

6 Legislative Document

No. 1363

8 S.P. 503

In Senate, April 19, 1985

9 Reported by Senator Gauvreau of Androscoggin from the Committee on  
10 Education and printed under Joint Rule 2. Original bill sponsored by Senator  
11 Kany of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Senator Hichens of York, Senator  
Matthews of Kennebec and Representative McGowan of Canaan.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

12  
13 STATE OF MAINE  
14

15 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
16 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE  
17

18 AN ACT Establishing a Pilot Project to  
19 Provide Liaison to Families of  
20 Children with Special Needs Within the  
21 Department of Educational and Cultural  
22 Services.  
23

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

26 Sec. 1. 20-A MRS A §7202-A is enacted to read:

27 §7202-A. Family liaison

28 The commissioner shall contract for the services  
29 of a person within the department to act as liaison  
30 to families with exceptional children.

31 1. Qualifications. The family liaison shall cur-  
32 rently be, or formerly have been, the parent of an  
33 exceptional child and shall be qualified by training  
34 or experience to perform the duties required in sub-  
35 section 2.

1           2. Duties. The family liaison shall be available  
2 to meet or talk with the parents of an exceptional  
3 child concerning the needs of the child and of the  
4 family, the appropriate federal and state laws and  
5 rules and the services available to the child and the  
6 family.

7           Sec. 2. **Implementation; pilot project; report of**  
8 **the commissioner.** The provisions of this Act shall be  
9 implemented as a pilot project and shall terminate on  
10 June 30, 1987, unless continued by act of the Legis-  
11 lature. The Commissioner of Educational and Cultural  
12 Services shall begin implementation of this Act, in-  
13 cluding contracting for the family liaison, as soon  
14 as practicable after the effective date of this Act  
15 and shall report his experiences, findings and recom-  
16 mendations to the First Regular Session of the 113th  
17 Legislature.

18           Sec. 3. **Appropriation.** The following funds are  
19 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the  
20 the purposes of this Act.

|    | <u>1985-86</u>                  | <u>1986-87</u>  |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 21 |                                 |                 |
| 22 | <u>EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL</u> |                 |
| 23 | <u>SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</u>  |                 |
| 24 | All Other                       | \$23,275        |
| 25 | Capital Expenditures            | \$33,180        |
|    |                                 | <u>500</u>      |
| 26 | Total                           | \$23,775        |
|    |                                 | <u>\$33,180</u> |

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2           The purpose of this new draft is to establish a  
3 pilot project providing for a family liaison within  
4 the Department of Educational and Cultural Services.  
5 Currently, when parents of exceptional children partici-  
6 pate in the pupil evaluation team process and  
7 when they assist in development of the individual ed-  
8 ucation plan for their child, they often find them-  
9 selves in an unfamiliar setting with an array of pro-  
10 fessionals who sometimes present things in technical  
11 language. In those circumstances, the parents, who  
12 are the ones most familiar with the educational needs  
13 of their child, are often intimidated and are unable  
14 to participate in the process in an appropriate way.  
15 The result may be the development of an educational  
16 plan that is inappropriate for the child, which frus-  
17 trates the child and parents and subverts the purpose  
18 of the process.

19           This new draft reduces from 3 to 1 the number of  
20 liaisons in the department, provides that the commis-  
21 sioner shall contract for the liaison services and  
22 revises the fiscal note.

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