

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1907

7 S.P. 743

In Senate, January 20, 1986

8 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
9 pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

10 Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Clark of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Gauvreau of Androscoggin, Representative
Connolly of Portland and Representative Priest of Brunswick.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Improve Access to Child Care
18 Services.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §5311, sub-§§4 to 6 are enacted
23 to read:

24 4. Child care plans. Any school administrative
25 unit, secondary or post-secondary educational insti-
26 tution, private industry, state agency, hospital or
27 health care facility which receives state funds or
28 state-administered federal funds in the amount of
29 \$200,000 or more for the purpose of building expan-
30 sion, renovation or new construction shall submit to
31 the Office of Child Care Coordination, as part of the
32 plans for that expansion, renovation or construction,
33 plans for facilities for on-site child care. If such
34 an on-site child care facility is not feasible, the
35 entity shall submit a plan for assisting employees in
36 meeting child care needs. The submission and approv-

1 al of the child care plans shall be a prerequisite to
2 the receipt of any state funds or state-administered
3 federal funds set out in this subsection.

4 5. Grant program. The Office of Child Care Co-
5 ordination shall administer a grant program for pilot
6 programs which address the needs of before-school and
7 after-school care of children between the ages of 4
8 and 15 years. Grants may be awarded to municipali-
9 ties, school administrative units, governmental agen-
10 cies or nonprofit organizations. Grant money may not
11 exceed 25% of the total cost of any program.

12 6. Rules. The Office of Child Care Coordination
13 may promulgate rules, in accordance with the Maine
14 Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375,
15 to establish criteria for the awarding of grants un-
16 der subsection 5 and criteria for the approval of
17 child care plans under subsection 4.

18 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are
19 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
20 purposes of this Act.

21 1986-87

22 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

23 Office of Child Care Coordination

24 All Other \$50,000

25 Funds to be used
26 to administer
27 child care grant
28 program.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The report of the Maine Child Care Task Force in-
3 dicates that between 1970 and 1982 the numbers of
4 Maine children under 18 years with mothers in the
5 work force grew from about 1/3, 39.5%, of all chil-
6 dren to more than 1/2, 55.0%, and the proportion of
7 Maine school-age children, 6 to 17, with mothers in
8 the labor force grew from 43.4% to 59.2%. Between
9 1972 and 1984, among children under 6 years, the pro-
10 portion almost doubled from 28.9% to 57.0%.

11 In 1990, it is expected that the need for child
12 care will be even greater. Estimates are that more
13 than 57% of all mothers with children under age 6
14 years will be employed and that 67% of all 2-parent
15 families will have both parents in the labor force.

16 According to the Department of Human Services, in
17 November, 1984, there were 16,063 child care slots in
18 registered and licensed homes. Fifty-four thousand
19 of Maine's children under 13 years live in households
20 in which all adults work full time.

21 This bill encourages employers to recognize the
22 need for child care and make some steps to alleviate
23 the severe shortage of child care facilities in order
24 to aid their employees in addressing child care
25 needs.

26 In addition, 25,000 Maine children 5 to 12 years
27 of age spend some time caring for themselves each
28 week. This bill provides a small, 25% of cost of to-
29 tal project, grant incentive to communities that wish
30 to develop before-school and after-school programs
31 for "latch-key" children.

32

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