

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 293

H.P. 225 House of Representatives, February 6, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative FOSS of Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives STANLEY of Cumberland,
HOGLUND of Portland and Senator ANDREWS of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT Making an Appropriation to Fund the
2 Development of Employer Supported Day Care.
3

4 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
5 follows:

6 Appropriation. The following funds are appropri-
7 ated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes
8 of this Act.

9 1987-88

10 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

11 Office of Child Care Coord-
12 ination

13 All Other

\$25,000

1 Funds to be used for
2 technical assistance
3 and consultant services
4 to the business commu-
5 nity on development of
6 employer supported
7 child care options.

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

9 The report of the Maine Child Care Task Force in-
10 dicates that, between 1970 and 1982, the numbers of
11 Maine children under 18 years with mothers in the
12 work force grew from 39.5% to 55%, and the proportion
13 of Maine school-age children, 6 to 17 years, with
14 mothers in the labor force grew from 43.4% to 59.2%.
15 Between 1972 and 1984, among children under 6 years,
16 the proportion almost doubled, from 28.9% to 57%.

17 In 1990, it is expected that the need for child
18 care will be even greater. Estimates are that more
19 than 57% of all mothers with children under the age
20 of 6 years will be employed and that 67% of all
21 2-parent families will have both parents in the labor
22 force.

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

28 Lack of affordable, accessible child care affects
29 not only Maine people but also Maine's economy. The
30 Maine Child Care Needs Survey indicates that millions
31 of dollars are lost in the Maine economy due to lack
32 of child care. In national studies, employer sup-
33 ported child care has been shown to aid in recruit-
34 ment, reduce turnover, reduce absenteeism and in-
35 crease productivity.

36 This bill provides the Office of Child Care Coord-
37 ination with resources to contract with child care
38 consultants who would provide technical assistance
39 and consultant services to encourage and assist in

1 the development of employer supported child care op-
2 tions in the private sector business community.

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