

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1551

H.P. 1141 House of Representatives, May 13, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative PRIEST of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator CLARK of Cumberland,
Representatives DIAMOND of Bangor and PINES of Limestone.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Increase the Availability and
Improve the Quality of Child Care in
this State.

1
2
3
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §8 is enacted to read:

8 §8. Executive development of child care policy for
9 state economic development

10 The Governor shall, in recommending legislation
11 to the Legislature concerning state economic develop-
12 ment, and in overseeing the creation and promulgation
13 of Executive Department rules concerning state eco-
14 nomical development, ensure that the Executive Depart-
15 ment develops a considered policy and plan of action

1 for child care issues concerned with state economic
2 development, and that the Executive Department pro-
3 vides needed technical assistance to the private
4 sector in meeting the child care needs of private
5 sector employees.

6 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §262 is enacted to read:**

7 §262. Child Care Assistance Program

8 The commissioner shall establish the Child Care
9 Assistance Program which shall help communities and
10 school districts to:

11 1. Issues. Work on the development of policy and
12 action on child care issues for school age children;
13 and

14 2. Technical assistance. Provide technical as-
15 istance to communities on the use of school, municipi-
16 pal and community space as well as school transporta-
17 tion for child care programs.

18 **Sec. 3. 22 MRSA c. 1051-B is enacted to read:**

19 CHAPTER 1051-B

20 CHILD DAY CARE PROGRAMS

21 §3721. Statutory cost of living adjustments for the
22 Department of Human Services contracted child
23 day care programs

24 The department shall adjust the amount of funds
25 available each fiscal year for Bureau of Social Ser-
26 vices' administered purchase of service child day
27 care contracts by the adjustment in the Consumer
28 Price Index.

29 **Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §5311, sub-§4 is enacted to**
30 **read:**

31 4. Coordination. The Office of Child Care Coor-
32 ordination, assisted by the Child Care Advisory Commit-
33 tee, shall coordinate an interdepartmental effort
34 among the Department of Human Services, the Depart-
35 ment of Educational and Cultural Services, the De-

1 partment of Labor and any other state department con-
2 cerned with child care and shall meet regularly with
3 representatives from those departments to facilitate
4 the development of a responsive child care system for
5 the State.

6 **Sec. 5. 26 MRSA c. 28 is enacted to read:**

7 CHAPTER 28

8 CHILD CARE

9 §3001. Funds for dislocated workers

10 Funds shall be appropriated annually to the De-
11 partment of Labor for the purchase of child care by
12 voucher for persons in one or more of these catego-
13 ries: Dislocated workers as defined in section 1196,
14 subsection 1 and persons enrolled in employment
15 training programs.

16 §3002. Funds for programs

17 Funds shall be appropriated annually to the De-
18 partment of Labor to be used to provide funds for
19 start-up and operational costs of child care programs
20 for dislocated workers as defined in section 1196,
21 subsection 1, and persons enrolled in employment
22 training programs. These programs may be operated by
23 corporations, partnerships or sole proprietorships
24 who provide training for dislocated workers or who
25 provide child care programs.

26 **Sec. 6. Appropriation.** The following funds are
27 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
28 the purposes of this Act.

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
29		
30	<u>LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF</u>	
31	All Other	\$253,500 \$338,000

1 To be used for the pur-
2 chase of child care by
3 voucher for persons who
4 are in one or more of
5 these categories: Dislo-
6 cated workers as defined
7 in Title 26, section
8 1196, subsection 1; and
9 persons enrolled in em-
10 ployment training pro-
11 grams.

12 All Other \$225,000 \$300,000

13 To be used to fund
14 start-up and operational
15 costs of child care pro-
16 grams for dislocated
17 workers as defined in Ti-
18 tle 26, section 1196,
19 subsection 1 and persons
20 enrolled in employment
21 training programs.

22 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPART-
23 MENT OF

24 All Other \$324,600 \$432,794

25 These funds are to be
26 used to increase by 15%
27 the salaries of child
28 care workers in agencies
29 who contract with the De-
30 partment of Human Ser-
31 vices to provide services
32 to clients funded through
33 social services block
34 grants.

35 Bureau of Social Ser-
36 vices, Purchased So-
37 cial Services

38 All Other \$100,500 \$138,690

1 can create, through their own efforts, a system to
2 provide needed child care.

3 This bill recognizes that State Government must
4 strive to keep in place existing child care programs
5 and efforts, by providing much needed cost-of-living
6 increases to child care workers funded with social
7 services block grants, and by increasing the very low
8 salaries of these child care workers.

9 The bill also recognizes that child care is
10 crucial to Maine's economic development, and there-
11 fore the bill appropriates money to help dislocated
12 workers and retraining employees get the child care
13 they need to complete their training.

14 The bill also requires the Governor to consider
15 the child care needs of Maine's workers and indus-
16 tries in planning and carrying out economic develop-
17 ment strategies.

18 This bill, as well, provides a program in the De-
19 partment of Educational and Cultural Services, to
20 help local communities and school districts develop
21 the latchkey programs and other innovative child care
22 programs for which the citizens of those communities
23 and school districts are willing to work.

24 The bill also provides that the Office of Child
25 Care Coordination in the Department of Human Services
26 will coordinate state efforts concerning child care,
27 so that the State provides an efficient and unified
28 approach to the State's child care needs.

29 In sum, this bill provides the basis for State
30 Government to assist citizens, localities and busi-
31 nesses to begin meeting their urgent child care
32 needs.

33 1009050687