

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2133

H.P. 1566 House of Representatives, January 25, 1988

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

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative RYDELL of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Senator CLARK of Cumberland,
Representatives MCGOWAN of Canaan and FOSTER of Ellsworth.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT to Prevent Reductions in Existing Child
2 Care Programs Funded with Social Services
3 Block Grants.
4

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

7 22 MRSA c. 1051-B is enacted to read:

8 CHAPTER 1051-B

9 CHILD DAY CARE SERVICES

1 §3718. Department of Human Services contracted child
2 day care services

3 1. Commissioner's recommendation. The
4 commissioner's recommended budget to the Governor for
5 the purchase of contracted child day care services
6 shall be adjusted at a minimum to include an estimate
7 of the amount needed to maintain the number of slots
8 subsidized by the department in the current year. In
9 making the estimate, the commissioner shall consider:

10 A. Local economic conditions which affect the
11 salary level needed to attract and retain
12 qualified child day care workers in each area; and

13 B. Changes in the average costs of facilities,
14 materials and other personnel reflected in Data
15 Resources, Inc., indexes for health care
16 facilities.

17 2. Governor's recommendation. The Governor shall
18 incorporate the commissioner's recommendation in the
19 budget document submitted to the Legislature. The
20 budget document shall include an analysis of the
21 effect which any difference between the Governor's
22 recommendation and the commissioner's recommendation
23 will have on the number of subsidized child day care
24 slots for which the department contracts.

25 3. Increasing child day care slots. Nothing in
26 this section may be construed as limiting the
27 commissioner's or the Governor's ability to recommend
28 increases in the number of child day care slots
29 subsidized by the State.

30 FISCAL NOTE

31 This bill will result in future costs to the
32 General Fund. The exact fiscal impact cannot be
33 determined at this time since local economic
34 conditions, the Data Resources, Inc., forecasts for
35 health care facilities and the funding level of the
36 Social Services Block Grant have yet to be determined.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill requires the Commissioner of Human
3 Services to include in the Department of Human
4 Services' budget recommendations to the Governor
5 sufficient funds to maintain the number of subsidized
6 child day care slots for which the department
7 contracted in the current year. In calculating the
8 amount of funds needed, the commissioner must take
9 into consideration local economic conditions which
10 affect salary levels in each area and average changes
11 in the State for the cost of facilities, materials and
12 other personnel. The bill further requires the
13 Governor to include in the budget document submitted
14 to the Legislature an analysis of the effect the
15 Governor's recommended budget will have on increasing
16 or decreasing the number of subsidized child day care
17 slots purchased by the department. The bill does not
18 limit the Governor's final budget authority.

19 The First Regular Session of the 113th Legislature
20 included in the budget provisions for providing
21 sufficient funds to increase the number of subsidized
22 child day care slots to make up for slots lost because
23 of inflation over the past years. In addition, it
24 provided money for a 5% salary increase for child day
25 care workers and cost-of-living adjustments for this
26 biennium. This bill would insure that these
27 improvements are not eroded in the future.

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