

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

NO. 2213

Cosponsored by Representatives CHONKO of Topsham, MARSANO of Belfast and Senator PERKINS of Hancock.

STATE OF MAINE

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

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

1988-89

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Community Services,
Division of

Head Start

Personal Services	\$ 70,000
All Other	280,000
Total	<u>\$350,000</u>

Funds will provide a 5% cost-of-living increase for existing state-funded programs, as well as a 5% salary enhancement to state-funded Head Start teachers and support staff. In addition, up to 60 new openings for children will be funded. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis to existing providers. The Community Services Advisory Board will develop criteria for awarding the additional openings through the competitive bidding process. The cost of services to additional children and their families will be based on the average cost of state-funded Head Start in fiscal year 1987-88 adjusted to include the program cost-of-living increase

1 and the 5% teacher
2 salary enhancement
3 appropriation.

4 STATEMENT OF FACT

5 Seventy-five percent of children eligible for Head
6 Start services in this State are not currently being
7 served. Lower state funding has lengthened already
8 long waiting lists for eligible families. While Maine
9 is a documented leader in the country in provision of
10 state-funded Head Start programs, we continue to
11 experience a significant unfunded need.

12 As in other social services in this State, Head
13 Start programs are losing their direct care staff
14 workers to area service sector employers. In addition
15 to long waiting lists for eligible children, Head
16 Start agencies are unable to retain their workers.

17 Head Start services cost less than \$3,200 per
18 family. The focus of Head Start is educational and
19 social competence for the child and family; studies
20 reveal that each dollar of that investment saves
21 taxpayers \$4.75 over the child's lifetime, in the form
22 of a decreased need for special education services,
23 decreased drop-out rates, decreased rates of teenage
24 pregnancy and so on. Parent involvement in Head Start
25 programs is encouraged and comprehensive social health
26 and nutrition services are provided to participating
27 children and families.

28 This bill provides for program cost-of-living,
29 inflationary increases and salary enhancements for
30 current staff, as well as funding for up to 60 new
31 openings, in an effort to meet the long waiting lists.

32 A competitive bidding process will be developed by
33 the Community Services Advisory Board to award funds
34 for new openings.

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