

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

NO. 2566

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H.P. 1874                      House of Representatives, March 23, 1988  
Reported by Representative HANDY from the Special  
Commission to Study School-Entrance Age and Preschool Services  
pursuant to Resolves 1987, chapter 64.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Education  
suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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RESOLVE, To Amend the Duties, Title and  
Reporting Date of the Special Commission to  
Study School-Entrance Age and Preschool  
Services.

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Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves  
of the Legislature do not become effective until 90  
days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies;  
and

1       Whereas, the Special Commission to Study School-  
2 entrance Age and Preschool Services has identified  
3 lack of school readiness as a critical problem; and

4       Whereas, that problem is caused by several related  
5 factors and not by the school entrance age alone; and

6       Whereas, the special commission has recommended  
7 that the present school-entrance age not be changed  
8 provided other related issues are studied in the  
9 coming year; and

10       Whereas, issues related to developmentally  
11 appropriate early childhood curriculum need to be  
12 studied and addressed immediately; and

13       Whereas, failure to do so will result in negative  
14 consequences for many school children; and

15       Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these  
16 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the  
17 Constitution of Maine and require the following  
18 legislation as immediately necessary for the  
19 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;  
20 now, therefore, be it

21       **Special commission renamed. Resolved:** That the  
22 Special Commission to Study School-entrance Age and  
23 Preschool Services, established by Resolve 1987,  
24 chapter 64, is renamed the Special Commission on Early  
25 Childhood Development and Education; and be it further

26       **Duties. Resolved:** That the Special Commission  
27 on Early Childhood Development and Education shall  
28 examine issues related to early childhood development  
29 and appropriate educational programming, including the  
30 following:

31       1. Establishment of developmentally appropriate  
32 early childhood curricula;

33       2. Alternative structures for early childhood  
34 educational programs;

35       3. Appropriate class size and student-teacher

1 ratios for early elementary grades;

2 4. Appropriate preschool services, including the  
3 possibility of targeting at-risk children;

4 5. Appropriate preservice training, certification  
5 and staff development requirements for early childhood  
6 teachers;

7 6. The role parents play in the development of  
8 their child and how that role may be enhanced;

9 7. The appropriate role of the private sector in  
10 the provision of child care and preschool services and  
11 ways to enhance that role;

12 8. Current state initiatives for early childhood  
13 education and child care services and ways those  
14 initiatives may be coordinated; and

15 9. Changes in relationships between and  
16 responsibilities of various institutions and agencies  
17 which will result in the provision of more appropriate  
18 early childhood educational programs; and be it further

19 **Report. Resolved:** That the special commission  
20 shall issue its report, including any necessary  
21 implementing legislation, to the First Regular Session  
22 of the 114th Legislature no later than December 15,  
23 1988; and be it further

24 **Membership. Resolved:** That in addition to the  
25 members provided for in Resolve 1987, chapter 64, the  
26 special commission shall also include one member  
27 familiar with early childhood educational programs  
28 representing the Department of Educational and  
29 Cultural Services and one member familiar with child  
30 care services representing the Department of  
31 Educational and Cultural Services. Both of those  
32 members shall be full voting members; and be it further

33 **Transition. Resolved:** That, except as otherwise  
34 provided in this resolve, compensation and staffing  
35 requirements established by Resolve 1987, chapter 64,  
36 for the Special Commission to Study School-entrance  
37 Age and Preschool Services shall continue for the

1 Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and  
2 Education. Funds appropriated by Resolve 1987,  
3 chapter 64, and not expended shall be carried forward  
4 and may be used by the Special Commission on Early  
5 Childhood Development and Education to carry out its  
6 responsibilities; and be it further

7 **Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following  
8 funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry  
9 out the purposes of this resolve.

10 1988-89

11 LEGISLATURE

12 Special Commission on Early  
13 Childhood Development and  
14 Education

|    |                   |                |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 15 | Personal Services | \$1,600        |
| 16 | All Other         | 6,000          |
| 17 |                   |                |
| 18 | Total             | <u>\$7,600</u> |

19 Provides funds for the  
20 per diem, travel and  
21 related expenses of  
22 the special commission.

23 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency  
24 cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect  
25 when approved.

26 STATEMENT OF FACT

27 The purpose of this resolve is to implement the  
28 interim recommendations of the Special Commission on  
29 School-entrance Age and Preschool Services. That  
30 commission recommended that the present school  
31 entrance age remain as it is and that the following  
32 school readiness issues be studied in detail:  
33 Establishment of developmentally appropriate early  
34 childhood curricula; alternative structures for early

1 childhood educational programs; appropriate class size  
2 and student-teacher ratios for early elementary  
3 grades; appropriate preschool services; appropriate  
4 preservice training, certification and staff  
5 development requirements for early childhood teachers;  
6 enhancement of the role parents play in the  
7 development of their child; appropriate role of the  
8 private sector in the provision of child care and  
9 preschool services and ways to enhance that role;  
10 current state initiatives for early childhood  
11 education and child care services and ways those  
12 initiatives may be coordinated; and changes in  
13 relationships and responsibilities of various agencies  
14 which will result in the provision of appropriate  
15 early childhood educational programs.

16 This resolve renames the Special Commission to  
17 Study School-entrance Age and Preschool Services as  
18 the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development  
19 and Education, directs the commission to study those  
20 issues listed in this resolve and to report to the  
21 First Regular Session of the 114th Legislature and  
22 adds representatives on the commission in the fields  
23 of early childhood education and child care services.

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