

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No 47

S.P. 64

In Senate, January 31, 1989

Reported by Senator ESTES of York for the Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education pursuant to Resolve 1987, chapter 110.

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 18.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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An Act to Expand the Head Start Preschool Opportunities in Maine.

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1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

3 **Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the  
5 General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

7 1989-90 1990-91

9 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

11 **Head Start**

13 All Other \$500,000 \$629,863

15 Funds will provide a 10%  
17 cost-of-living increase to  
19 cover increased operating  
21 costs for existing  
23 State-funded Head Start  
25 programs in the first year of  
27 the biennium and a 5%  
29 increase in the second year.  
31 Additional funds will be used  
33 to finance expansion or  
35 improvement of existing  
37 programs in accordance with  
39 local needs. Allowable uses  
41 include, but are not limited  
43 to: increasing levels of  
45 service, improving  
47 transportation services,  
49 acquiring needed classroom  
51 equipment, increasing staff  
salaries and improving  
facilities. One third of the  
funding for program expansion  
and improvement will be  
allocated in equal amounts to  
existing programs. Two  
thirds will be allocated  
proportionately, based on  
each program's percentage of  
the combined total of State  
and federally funded Head  
Start slots in the State.

47 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

49 This bill is part of the legislative recommendations of the  
51 Special Commission on Early Childhood Development and Education  
authorized by Resolve 1987, chapter 110.

1  
3 State funding for the Head Start program enables the program  
5 to serve 724 economically disadvantaged children, in addition to  
7 the 1664 children who participate in the federally funded  
9 program. The program is designed to promote educational and  
11 social competence for the child by providing comprehensive  
13 services to the whole family. Head Start services cost less than  
\$2,757 per child and the program has a well-documented record of  
success in helping to break the cycle of poverty and dependency.  
A recent study commissioned by the United States House of  
Representatives concluded that a \$1 investment in quality  
preschool education returns \$6 in the form of lower costs for  
special education, public assistance, etc.

15 Local agencies operating the Head Start program received no  
17 state funding increase in 1988. The proposed cost-of-living  
19 increase in the first year of the biennium will, therefore, help  
to cover cost increases occurring over a 2-year period.

21 Funds for program improvement and expansion are needed to  
23 enable local programs to maintain appropriate facilities,  
25 increase salaries in order to retain qualified personnel, provide  
adequate transportation and to serve additional children or to  
increase the hours of days of program operation. The particular  
needs vary across the State. This bill provides the resources,  
as well as the flexibility that local agencies need to enhance  
27 program quality and address local needs.