

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

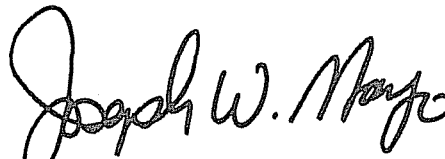
No. 236

H.P. 184

House of Representatives, February 1, 1993

An Act to Permit Children 5 Years of Age to Enter Grade One.

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative TARDY of Palmyra.
Cosponsored by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

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Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §5201, sub-§3, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. A person who is 5 years of age or older on October 15th may enroll in grade one if that person has been evaluated by a licensed school psychologist or school psychological examiner at the parent's expense and meets the following criteria:

(1) Demonstrates cognitive ability at or above the 80th percentile for 5 years of age;

(2) Can identify at least 25 words from the Dolch list;

(3) Can perform addition and subtraction at 75% accuracy with numerals between 0 and 10;

(4) Possesses language ability at or above the 80th percentile for 5 years of age;

(5) Possesses social skills at or above the 40th percentile for 5 years of age;

(6) Possesses attention and concentration skills at or above the 40th percentile for 5 years of age;

(7) Has had a successful preschool experience of at least 6 months;

(8) Does not have a diagnosable psychiatric handicap;

(9) Is not at or below the 10th percentile for height and weight for 5 years of age; and

(10) Does not face any other obstacles to school success that could not be resolved by normal classroom intervention, parent and teacher consultation or parent intervention during the first 3 months of school.

Upon examination of the psychological evaluation, the school administrative unit to which the person applies may request that a 2nd evaluation be conducted at the school's expense. If the 2nd evaluation establishes that the person fails to meet the requirements of this paragraph, the person will not be eligible to enroll in grade one.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

4 Under current law, a child must be 6 years of age on October
15th to enroll in grade one. This bill permits a child who is at
6 least 5 years of age on October 15th to enter grade one provided
the child is evaluated at parental expense by a psychologist or
8 psychological examiner and meets a number of developmental
criteria. The bill permits the school to require and pay for a
10 2nd evaluation. If the 2nd evaluation confirms the results of
the first evaluation, the child may enroll in grade one. If the
12 2nd evaluation establishes that the child does not meet the
developmental criteria, the child may not enroll in grade one.