

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MS

L.D. 1399

DATE: 5-19-97

(Filing No. H-562)

MINORITY

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1007, L.D. 1399, Bill, "An Act to Allow an Appeal Concerning the Date to Determine Age for Kindergarten"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Allow an Exception Concerning the Date to Determine Age for Kindergarten'

Further amend the bill in section 1 by striking out all of paragraph F and inserting in its place the following:

'F. After a written request by a parent or guardian, a person who will be at least 5 years of age by November 15th of the school year may enroll in kindergarten if the school administrative unit determines the person is ready for kindergarten by using its current screening mechanism. The initial assessment of the person's readiness for kindergarten by the school administrative unit's screening mechanism is final.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The requirement that school units assess certain additional children to determine their readiness for kindergarten represents a state mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. The additional local costs can not be determined. General Fund

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

RMS

2 appropriations will be required to fund at least 90% of the
3 additional costs unless a Mandate Preamble is amended to the bill
4 and two-thirds of the members of each House vote to exempt this
5 mandate from the funding requirement.'

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8 **SUMMARY**

9 This amendment changes the bill in the following ways:

10 1. It amends the title to reflect more accurately the
11 intent of the statutory provision;

12 2. It allows a person who will be at least 5 years of age
13 by November 15th of the school year to enroll in kindergarten
14 after determination by the school administrative unit that the
15 person is ready for kindergarten if a parent or guardian of a
16 person makes a written request to the school administrative unit;

17 3. It clarifies that the initial assessment of the child's
18 readiness for kindergarten must be made through the use of the
19 school's current screening mechanism and that this assessment is
20 final; and

21 4. It adds a fiscal note.
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