



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1695

H.P. 1195

House of Representatives, April 1, 1997

An Act to Provide Early Childhood Education Opportunities.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

4). Mayo

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BAKER of Bangor. Cosponsored by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, BROOKS of Winterport, DESMOND of Mapleton, LEMAIRE of Lewiston, McKEE of Wayne, SAXL of Bangor, Senators: CATHCART of Penobscot, PENDLETON of Cumberland.

| | Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: |
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| 2 | Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4255 is enacted to read: |
| 4 | §4255. Full-day kindergarten; funding |
| 6 8 | The commissioner shall support a full-day kindergarten program in each school unit. For funding allocations, full-day kindergarten students must be coded as 2 full-time equivalent |
| 10 | students. |
| 12 | Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA c. 203, sub-c. III is enacted to read: |
| 14 | SUBCHAPTER III |
| 16 | EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN 3 TO 4 YEARS OF AGE |
| 18 | §4261. Early childhood education program |
| 20 | The commissioner shall design a model program and curriculum |
| 22 | to provide early childhood education opportunities for children of this State. The program must focus on language acquisition, |
| 24 | computation skills and readiness to learn opportunities. School administrative units may adopt the model program and curriculum |
| 26 28 | <u>or develop their own program and curriculum, subject to the following:</u> |
| 30 | 1. Program for children 3 years of age. School administrative units shall implement an early childhood education program for 2 1/2 hours each day for children who are 3 years of |
| 3 2 | age on or before October 15th, effective in school year 1999-2000. |
| 34 | 2. Program for children 4 years of age. School administrative units shall implement an early childhood education |
| 36 | program for 4 hours each day for children who are 4 years of age on or before October 15th, effective in school year 2001-2002. |
| 38 | |
| 10 | SUMMARY |
| 42 | This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to design a model early childhood education program to provide early |
| 44 | childhood education opportunities for residents of this State. |
| 46 | The bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to support full-day kindergarten in each school unit and code |
| 48 | full-day students as 2 full-time equivalent students for funding purposes. |
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