

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1447

S.P. 487

In Senate, February 23, 1999

An Act to Promote Maine's Family-friendly Business and Investment Strategies.

Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LONGLEY of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Speaker ROWE of Portland and
Senators: KONTOS of Cumberland, MacKINNON of York, Representatives: BOLDUC of
Auburn, O'NEAL of Limestone, SHOREY of Calais, SIROIS of Caribou, TRIPP of Topsham,
USHER of Westbrook.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13062, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 534, Pt. A, §§17 and 19, is amended to read:

A. The office shall conduct an analysis of the various industrial sectors of the economy. The types of businesses to be targeted for attraction ~~shall be ones which are those that~~ have potential for development in Maine and ~~which that~~ will contribute to a healthy business--and--environmental climate for Maine's businesses, families and environment.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13090-B, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 780, Pt. N, §1, is amended to read:

A. The projects to be financed must:

(1) Pertain to manufacturing, industrial, real estate development, child care, recreational or natural resource enterprises;

(2) Be located or establishing a presence in the State; and

(3) Provide significant public benefit in relation to the amount of the loan, as determined by the department. Public benefits include, but are not limited to: increased opportunities for employment; increased capital flows, particularly of capital from outside the State; increased state and municipal tax revenues; rehabilitation of blighted or underutilized areas; and provision of necessary services.

Loan proceeds may be used for any appropriate commercial purpose, as determined by the department, including working capital.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13090-K is enacted to read:

§13090-K. Quality child care

1. Creation. The Quality Child Care Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is created under the jurisdiction and control of the department.

2. Sources of money. The fund consists of the following:

A. All money appropriated or allocated for inclusion in the fund, from whatever source;

2 B. Subject to any pledge, contract or other obligation, all
4 interest, dividends or other pecuniary gains from investment
6 of money from the fund;

8 C. Subject to any pledge, contract, fee or other
10 obligation, any money that the department receives in
12 repayment of advances from the fund; and

14 D. Any other money available to the department and directed
16 by the department to be paid into the fund.

18 3. Application of fund. Money in the fund may be applied
20 to carry out any power of the department under or in connection
22 with section 13090-B or to pay obligations incurred in connection
24 with the fund. Money in the fund not needed to meet the
26 obligations of the department as provided in this section may
28 accrue interest and be invested in a manner permitted by law.

30 4. Allocations from fund. The department shall allocate
32 money from the fund as it determines necessary or convenient to
34 carry out this section, including, but not limited to,
36 allocations for grants or loans.

38 5. Revolving fund. The fund is a nonlapsing, revolving
40 fund. The department shall apply continuously all money in the
42 fund to carry out this section.

44 **Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §929-B, sub-§3, ¶E, as amended by PL 1993, c.**
46 **709, §1, is further amended to read:**

48 **E. Identification of:**

50 (1) The types of industries and jobs with significant
growth potential in the State;

(2) The State's evolving industrial base;

(3) The dynamic national and international markets;

(4) Existing efforts to convert military economies to
civilian economies;

(5) Other relevant studies and evaluations in the
private and public sector dealing with the long-term
economic growth of the State; and

(6) The work force challenges faced by welfare
recipients and strategies to address their economic and
related needs; ; and

2 (7) Other relevant studies and evaluations in the
3 private and public sector concerning the availability
4 of child care.

5 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§4, ¶G,** as amended by PL 1991, c.
6 431, §1, is further amended to read:

7 G. The proposed operation of the district after the planned
8 capital improvements are completed; and

9 **Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§4, ¶H,** as enacted by PL 1991, c.
10 431, §2, is amended to read:

11 H. The duration of the program that must not exceed 30
12 years from the date of designation of the district; and

13 **Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§4, ¶I** is enacted to read:

14 I. Plans for addressing the quality child care needs of
15 development district employers.

16 **Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§8, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1995, c.
17 669, §1, is further amended by amending sub-¶¶10 and 11 as
18 follows:

19 (10) Training costs, including, but not limited to,
20 those costs associated with providing skills
21 development and training for employees of businesses
22 within the development district. These costs may not
23 exceed 20% of the total project costs and must be
24 designated as training funds in the development
25 program; and

26 (11) Costs associated with developing new employment
27 opportunities; promoting public events; advertising
28 cultural, educational and commercial activities;
29 providing public safety; establishing and maintaining
30 administrative and management support; assisting in
31 mitigating any adverse impact of a district upon the
32 municipality and its constituents; funding economic
33 development programs or environmental improvement
34 programs developed by the municipality; and such other
35 services as are necessary or appropriate to carry out
36 the development program if the activities and programs
37 generating such costs are provided for in the
38 development program and bear a reasonable relationship
39 to the improvements or activities within the district
40 or the impacts on the district; and

2 **Sec. 9. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§8, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1995, c.
669, §1, is further amended by enacting sub-¶12 to read:

4 (12) Quality child care costs, including finance
6 costs, construction, staffing, training, certification
 and accreditation costs related to child care.

8
10 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill makes quality child care a priority for the Office
of Business Development, the Economic Opportunity Program, the
14 Maine Economic Growth Council, and in municipal development
districts. This bill also creates a Quality Child Care Fund
administered by the Department of Economic and Community
16 Development into which money for quality child care received by
any source can be deposited and then disbursed through the
18 existing Economic Opportunity Program.