

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1828

S.P. 648

In Senate, March 11, 1999

An Act to Improve the Quality of Child Care.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President LAWRENCE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative BERRY of Livermore and
Senators: LONGLEY of Waldo, PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

2
3 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1013, sub-§15**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 732,
4 §2, is further amended to read:

6 **15. Scholarships for Maine Fund.** The Scholarships for
7 Maine Fund, as established in Title 20-A, chapter 419-C; and

8
9 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1013, sub-§16**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 732,
10 §3, is amended to read:

12 **16. Maine College Savings Program.** The Maine College
13 Savings Program, as established in Title 20-A, chapter 417-E; and

14
15 **Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1013, sub-§17** is enacted to read:

16
17 **17. Child Care Education Scholarship Program.** The Child
18 Care Education Scholarship Program, as established in Title 20-A,
19 chapter 419-D.

20
21 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA c. 419-D** is enacted to read:

22
23 **CHAPTER 419-D**

24
25 **CHILD CARE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

26
27 **§11661. Definitions**

28 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
29 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

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31 **1. Authority.** "Authority" means the Finance Authority of
32 Maine.

33 **2. Fund.** "Fund" means the Child Care Education Scholarship
34 Fund.

35 **3. Program.** "Program" means the Child Care Education
36 Scholarship Program.

37
38 **§11662. Program established**

39 **1. Program.** The Child Care Education Scholarship Program
40 is established to provide educational opportunities for child
41 care workers in this State to improve the quality of child care.

42 **2. Fund.** The Child Care Education Scholarship Fund is
43 created as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and control
44 of the authority to support the program. All revenues credited
45 to the fund must be distributed as scholarships awarded by the
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2 authority to individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of
3 subsection 3. Interest earned on amounts in the fund may be used
4 for the costs of administering the scholarships.

6 3. Eligibility. To be eligible for a scholarship under the
7 program an individual must:

8 A. Be employed as a child care worker for at least 32 hours
9 a week in a child care facility licensed by the State;

10 B. Enroll in a course related to early childhood education
11 offered by an accredited college or university; and

12 C. Agree to remain employed in child care for at least one
13 year following receipt of the scholarship.

14 4. Rules. The authority shall adopt rules for determining
15 further eligibility requirements, application procedures, terms
16 and conditions for the scholarships. Rules adopted pursuant to
17 this section are routine technical rules as defined Title 5,
18 chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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

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28 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

29
30 **Child Care Education**
31 **Scholarship Fund**

	1999-00	2000-01
All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000
Funds to be used for scholarships under the Child Care Education Scholarship Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 419-D.		

42
43
44 **SUMMARY**

45 The bill establishes the Child Care Education Scholarship
46 Program to provide scholarships to child care workers who take
47 courses related to early childhood education or child care from
48 an accredited college or university. The bill makes General Fund
appropriations to the Child Care Education Scholarship Fund to be

2 administered by the Finance Authority of Maine in overseeing the award of scholarships.