

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

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Legislative Document

No. 2505

S.P. 963

In Senate, January 24, 2000

**An Act to Support Child Care Education and Services.**

(EMERGENCY)

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural 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 Senator LONGLEY of Waldo.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

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6           Whereas, this legislation makes changes to the Educators for  
Maine Program, which provides tuition assistance for future  
teachers; and

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10          Whereas, this legislation addresses inequities in the  
program that do not allow child development students to take full  
advantage of the program; and

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14          Whereas, the program is now taking applications for the next  
school year; and

16          Whereas, child development students will not be able to take  
advantage of the provisions of this legislation for the next  
school year if this bill does not become effective until the  
effective date of legislation passed in this session, estimated  
to be sometime in July 2000; and

22          Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

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

30           **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11670**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt.  
000, §5, is amended to read:

32       **§11670. Quality Child Care Education Scholarship fund**

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36           The Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund is created  
and established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and  
control of the Finance Authority of Maine. All revenues credited  
38           to this fund must be distributed as scholarships based on  
financial need for residents of the State who are enrolled in one  
40           or more courses related to early childhood education or child  
development at accredited institutions of higher education or at  
42           course-offering institutions that have articulated agreements  
with accredited institutions of higher education. The Finance  
44           Authority of Maine shall award scholarships and adopt rules for  
determining eligibility, amounts, terms and conditions of  
46           scholarships. Interest earned on amounts in the fund may be used  
for the costs of administering the scholarships. Rules adopted  
48           pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to  
Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§§1-D, 1-E and 1-F are enacted to read:

1-D. Child care. "Child care" means a regular service of care and protection provided for compensation for any part of a day less than 24 hours to a child or children under 16 years of age whose parents work outside the home, attend an educational program or are otherwise unable to care for their children.

1-E. Child care facility. "Child care facility" means a facility that provides child care.

1-F. Child development student. "Child development student" means a college student or graduating high school senior who is pursuing child development associate certification or an associate's degree in child development.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12503, first ¶, as amended by PL 1999, c. 441, §7, is further amended to read:

Each year graduating high school seniors, college students and students pursuing postbaccalaureate certification who show evidence of academic achievement may be considered for recognition as Educators for Maine loan recipients. Applications must be submitted to the chief executive officer at a time and in a format to be determined by rule of the chief executive officer. A child development student is not required to show evidence of academic achievement upon initial application to the program.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12507, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Child development students. A child development student may fulfill a return service requirement under this section by working in a child care facility in the State.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA c. 1082 is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 1082**

**QUALITY CHILD CARE**

**§4095. Quality child care site**

1. Definition. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "quality child care site" means a child care site that meets minimum licensing standards and:



2 and appropriates funds to the Quality Child Care Education  
Scholarship Fund.