



## **119th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000**

Legislative Document

No. 2505

S.P. 963

In Senate, January 24, 2000

An Act to Support Child Care Education and Services.

(EMERGENCY)

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.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LONGLEY of Waldo.

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

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

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

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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 18 school year if this bill does not become effective until the effective date of legislation passed in this session, estimated 20 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 24 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and 26 safety; now, therefore,

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

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

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## §11670. Quality Child Care Education Scholarship fund

The Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund is created and established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction and 36 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 or more courses related to early childhood education or child 40 development at accredited institutions of higher education or at course-offering institutions that have articulated agreements 42 with accredited institutions of higher education. The Finance Authority of Maine shall award scholarships and adopt rules for 44 determining eligibility, amounts, conditions terms and of scholarships. Interest earned on amounts in the fund may be used 46 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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2 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12501, sub-§§1-D, 1-E and 1-F are enacted to read: 4 1-D. Child care. "Child care" means a regular service of б 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 8 age whose parents work outside the home, attend an educational program or are otherwise unable to care for their children. 10 1-E. Child care facility. "Child care facility" means a 12 facility that provides child care. 14 1-F. Child development student. "Child development 16 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. 18 Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12503, first ¶, as amended by PL 1999, c. 20 441,  $\S7$ , is further amended to read: 22 Each year graduating high school seniors, college students 24 and students pursuing postbaccalaureate certification who show evidence of academic achievement may be considered for recognition as Educators for Maine loan recipients. Applications 26 must be submitted to the chief executive officer at a time and in a format to be determined by rule of the chief executive 28 officer. A child development student is not required to show 30 evidence of academic achievement upon initial application to the program. 32 Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12507, sub-§4 is enacted to read: 34 4. Child development students. A child development student 36 may fulfill a return service requirement under this section by working in a child care facility in the State. 38 Sec. 5. 22 MRSA c. 1082 is enacted to read: 40 CHAPTER 1082 42 QUALITY CHILD CARE 44 §4095. Quality child care site 46 1. Definition. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "quality child care site" means a child care 48 site that meets minimum licensing standards and: 50

2	A. Is accredited by an independent, nationally recognized
4	program approved by the Department of Human Services, Office
	of Head Start and Child Care;
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	B. Utilizes recognized quality indicators for child care
6	services approved by the Department of Human Services,
	Office of Head Start and Child Care; and
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	<u>C. Includes provisions for parent and client input, a</u>
10	review of the provider's policies and procedures, a review
	of the provider's program records and an on-site program
12	review.
14	Realization multifunction councils calls there could be a failed at the
14	For large, multifunction agencies, only those portions of the
16	child care sites that have been reviewed by the accrediting body
10	may be considered quality child care sites.
18	2. List of sites. The department shall develop and
10	maintain a list of quality child care sites in the State.
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20	Sec. 6. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
22	from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.
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20	Scholarship Fund
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32 34	All Other \$150,000 Provides funds to be used for scholarships under the Quality Child Care Education
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32 34 36 38 40 42 <b>44</b>	All Other \$150,000 Provides funds to be used for scholarships under the Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 419-D. <b>Emergency clause.</b> In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved. <b>SUMMARY</b> This bill lowers eligibility standards for child development

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

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