

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1486

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H.P. 1117

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

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**An Act to Create the Child Development Services Advisory Committee.**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Manchester.  
Cosponsored by Senator CATHCART of Penobscot and  
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, KANE of Saco, NASS of Acton, RICHARD of  
Madison, STEDMAN of Hartland, WATSON of Farmingdale, WESTON of Montville,  
Senator: MITCHELL of Penobscot.

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

4 **0e it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

6 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§18-C is enacted to read:**

8	<u>18-C.</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>20-A MRSA</u>
	<u>Education:</u>	<u>Development</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>§7737</u>
10	<u>Child</u>	<u>Services</u>		
	<u>Development</u>	<u>Advisory</u>		
12	<u>Services</u>	<u>Committee</u>		

14 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §7737 is enacted to read:**

16 **§7737. Child Development Services Advisory Committee**

18 The Child Development Services Advisory Committee, referred  
to in this section as the "advisory committee," is created to  
provide advice to the department on the implementation of a  
comprehensive and collaborative early intervention system of  
services that are responsive to the current needs of children and  
families and that promote access to services by all children and  
their families who are in need of those services.

24 **1. Membership.** The advisory committee consists of up to 14  
members appointed by the commissioner to 2-year terms as follows:

28 A. Six members who are child development services site  
directors;

30 B. Three members selected from a list of nominees submitted  
by the Early Intervention Coalition or its successor  
organization; and

34 C. Three community providers.

36 Optionally, the commissioner may appoint 2 additional members as  
requested by the advisory committee.

40 **2. Department representation.** Two representatives of the  
department are ex officio members of the advisory committee.

42 **3. Duties.** The advisory committee shall:

44 A. Develop recommendations for improved quality and  
consistency of services;

46 B. Examine professional development to promote effective  
practices in serving eligible children;

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2 C. Review and refine adequacy and consistency of  
4 documentation for justification and continuation of  
6 direct-service hires;

8 D. Monitor the implementation of the rules for regional  
10 provider advisory boards;

12 E. Make recommendations for policy changes as appropriate  
14 to ensure a coordinated service delivery system;

16 F. Review and comment on proposed rule changes prior to  
18 public notice under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act;  
20 and

22 G. Provide a forum to address issues relating to services  
24 for young children with special needs.

26 **4. Frequency of meeting.** The advisory committee shall meet  
28 as frequently as determined necessary by the committee, but no  
30 less often than quarterly.

32 **5. Chair.** The advisory committee shall elect a chair from  
34 its membership.

36 **6. Decision making.** The advisory committee shall, to the  
38 extent practical, make recommendations by consensus.

40 **7. Staff support.** The department shall provide staff  
42 support.

44 **8. Compensation.** Compensation is not authorized.

46 **9. Report.** A summary of the activities and recommendations  
48 made by the advisory committee must be prepared and submitted  
annually by January 1st of each year to the joint standing  
committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education  
matters and to the Maine Advisory Council for the Education of  
Children with Disabilities or its successor organization.

**Sec. 3. Appointments.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised  
Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7737, subsection 1, the  
Commissioner of Education shall appoint 1/2 of the initial  
members of the Child Development Services Advisory Committee to  
one-year terms and 1/2 of the initial members to 2-year terms.  
In making the initial appointments, the commissioner shall give  
preference to the members of the so-called state-level  
provider/CDS site directors' working group.

## SUMMARY

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4       This bill establishes the Child Development Services  
6       Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Department of  
      Education concerning a comprehensive and collaborative early  
      intervention system of services.