

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.O.S.

L.D. 1513

DATE: 5/25/05

(Filing No. H-507)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
122ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1058, L.D. 1513, Bill, "An Act To Require Coordinated Early Childhood Care and Preschool Education in Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Require Coordination of Early Childhood Programs for Children 4 Years of Age in Maine'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4255 is enacted to read:

§4255. Coordinated early childhood programs for children 4 years of age

1. Approval process for early childhood education. Any school administrative unit that wishes to develop an early childhood program for children 4 years of age must submit a proposal for approval to the department. Evaluation of the proposal must include consideration of at least the following factors:

A. Demonstrated coordination with other early childhood programs in the community to maximize resources;

B. Consideration of the extended child care needs of working parents; and

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R.016

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2 C. Provision of public notice regarding the proposal to the
3 community being served, including the extent to which public
4 notice has been disseminated broadly to other early
5 childhood programs in the community.

6 2. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules to implement
7 this section, and any rules adopted must include standards for
8 early childhood programs for children 4 years of age that are
9 developed by school administrative units. Rules adopted pursuant
10 to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in
11 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

12
13 **Sec. 2. Standards.** The Department of Education, in
14 collaboration with representatives of the early childhood
15 programs in the State, shall establish standards for early
16 childhood programs for children 4 years of age developed by
17 school administrative units.'

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SUMMARY

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23 This amendment strikes and replaces the title of the bill
24 and the bill itself to establish that local public schools must
25 receive approval from the Department of Education before offering
26 so-called "early kindergarten" programs. The amendment
27 accomplishes the following.

28

29 1. It requires that the Department of Education approval
30 process consider factors related to the needs of families in the
31 community for other early childhood education programs for
32 children 4 years of age, the extent to which public schools have
33 demonstrated that they have coordinated with early childhood
34 programs for children 4 years of age in the community and the
35 provision of broad public notice regarding the proposed early
36 childhood education program for children 4 years of age.

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37 2. It permits the Department of Education to adopt major
38 substantive rules for the approval process for early childhood
39 programs for children 4 years of age.

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41 3. It also requires the Department of Education, in
42 collaboration with representatives of the early childhood
43 programs in the State, to establish standards for early childhood
44 programs for children 4 years of age developed by school
45 administrative units.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



Approved: 05/19/05 *MAC*

122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1513

LR 1438(02)

An Act To Require Coordinated Early Childhood Care and Preschool Education in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Education and Cultural Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Education associated with rulemaking and developing the required standards can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources. The costs to local school administrative units who choose to develop an early childhood program to prepare the required proposal can not be determined at this time.