

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 317

S.P. 99

January 19, 2007

An Act To Increase the Availability of Public Education Services from Child Development Services

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 DOW of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative WEAVER of York and
Senators: SAVAGE of Knox, SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin, Representatives: PINGREE
of North Haven, RICHARDSON of Warren.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §7001, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 662, Pt. A, §15,
3 is amended to read:

4 **2-A. Free, appropriate public education.** "Free, appropriate public education"
5 means special education and related services that are provided at public expense, under
6 public supervision and direction and without charge; meet the standards of the
7 department; include an appropriate preschool, elementary school or secondary school
8 education in the State; and are provided in conformity with the individualized family
9 service plan or individualized education program. Preschool children with disabilities
10 who reach 5 years of age between ~~September~~ July 1st and October 15th who are already
11 receiving free, appropriate public education through the Child Development Services
12 System and whose parents choose, in accordance with rules adopted by the
13 commissioner, not to enroll those children in kindergarten until the start of the following
14 school year must have free, appropriate public education available to them through the
15 Child Development Services System for one additional school year.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill expands the opportunity of preschool children with disabilities to continue to
18 have free, appropriate public education provided through the Child Development Services
19 System. This bill extends the window of eligibility by 2 months, allowing children who
20 reach 5 years of age between July 1st and October 15th, instead of the current September
21 1st and October 15th, to continue with the Child Development Services System.