

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 38

S.P. 17

In Senate, January 10, 2017

An Act To Strengthen the Maine Children's Growth Council

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland and
Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, CARSON of Cumberland, LANGLEY of Hancock,
MAKER of Washington, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: DAUGHTRY of
Brunswick, PIERCE of Falmouth, POULIOT of Augusta.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §24001, sub-§8**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 388, §2, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **8. Staffing; funding.** The council may hire staff as necessary for its work and as
5 resources permit. The council may request staff assistance from the Child Development
6 Services System under Title 20-A, section 7209 and the Department of Health and
7 Human Services. Upon request, the Child Development Services System and the
8 Department of Health and Human Services shall provide staff assistance to the council.
9 The council may accept grant funding and other funding as may be available for the work
10 of the council.

11 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §24002, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 388, §3, is further
12 amended to read:

13 **1. Duties.** The duties of the council include, but are not limited to:

14 A. Reviewing and addressing recommendations of legislative studies and advisory
15 committees regarding young children and the Children's Cabinet;

16 B. Adopting and updating a long-term plan for investment in the healthy
17 development of young children that will achieve sustainable social and financial
18 investment in the healthy development of young children and their families.

19 (1) In adopting and updating the plan the council shall consult and coordinate
20 with members of the public, the Children's Cabinet, the Department of Education,
21 the Department of Health and Human Services and advocates, community
22 agencies and providers of early care and education and services to children and
23 their families; monitor and evaluate progress in accomplishing the plan's vision,
24 goals and performance indicators and best practice research; and consider the
25 changing economic and demographic conditions and the effect of investments on
26 economic growth and productivity.

27 (2) The plan must include strategies:

28 (a) To create and sustain a unified, statewide early childhood services system
29 that provides essential resources for children, shares common standards for
30 quality, respects the diversity and uniqueness of young children and their
31 families, reflects a commitment to sustainable growth, includes family
32 representation, recognizes the importance of child care in sustaining
33 employment for parents and recognizes the value of new forms of
34 cooperation among government, business and society in achieving the goals
35 of the plan; and

36 (b) For overall investment and prioritization of early childhood and
37 education programs, services and initiatives and to address workforce
38 education and training issues, utilization of community partners across the
39 ~~state~~ State and investments in technology and infrastructure; ~~and~~

1 C. Reporting by January 15, ~~2011~~ 2018 and every 2 years annually thereafter at the
2 start of the first regular session of the Legislature to the Governor, the Legislative
3 Council and the one or more joint standing committees of the Legislature having
4 jurisdiction over health, human services, taxation and education matters on the
5 activities and accomplishments of the ~~council~~ Maine Children's Growth Council and
6 its long-term plan for investment in the healthy development of young children, and
7 issuing such other reports as the ~~council~~ Maine Children's Growth Council
8 determines to be appropriate. The annual report must include, but is not limited to:

9 (1) A description of the involvement of each state agency listed in section 24001,
10 subsection 3, paragraphs K and L in providing early childhood and education
11 services to young children;

12 (2) A description of the plans and goals of each state agency listed in section
13 24001, subsection 3, paragraphs K and L as those plans and goals affect the
14 provision of services to young children;

15 (3) Recommendations for changes to laws and rules to reduce barriers to
16 collaboration and coordination among federally funded and state-funded
17 programs and services for young children and their families and to improve the
18 quality of programs and services for young children statewide. The
19 recommendations must include, but are not limited to, methods to:

20 (a) Promote statewide the availability of services and programs for young
21 children and their families;

22 (b) Promote statewide the financial resources available to young children
23 and their families for early childhood and education programs and services;
24 and

25 (c) Enhance early childhood and education programs and services for young
26 children, including child development services, education services,
27 supervision services, health services and social services;

28 (4) A proposed budget for the implementation of the council's recommendations;
29 and

30 (5) Suggested legislation needed to implement the council's recommendations;

31 D. Developing and periodically updating a process for evaluating the council's
32 effectiveness in performing its duties and for evaluating progress in accomplishing
33 the long-term plan's visions, goals and performance indicators pursuant to paragraph
34 B, subparagraph (1); and

35 E. In accordance with the process developed under paragraph D, periodically
36 performing an evaluation of the council's effectiveness in performing its duties and of
37 the progress in accomplishing the long-term plan's visions, goals and performance
38 indicators pursuant to paragraph B, subparagraph (1).

39 **Sec. 3. Evaluation; design and performance.** By January 1, 2018, the Maine
40 Children's Growth Council, created in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 24001,
41 shall develop an evaluation process pursuant to Title 5, section 24002, subsection 1,

1 paragraph D. By August 1, 2018, the Maine Children's Growth Council shall perform an
2 evaluation pursuant to Title 5, section 24002, subsection 1, paragraph E.

3

SUMMARY

4 This bill adds duties for the Maine Children's Growth Council. The bill requires the
5 Maine Children's Growth Council to include additional information in the council's report
6 to the Governor and certain legislative committees. It changes the reporting requirement
7 from every 2 years to annually and includes the Legislative Council as a recipient of the
8 report. The bill directs the Maine Children's Growth Council to develop an evaluation
9 process and to periodically perform an evaluation of its effectiveness in performing its
10 duties. The bill authorizes the Maine Children's Growth Council to receive staff
11 assistance from the Child Development Services System and the Department of Health
12 and Human Services.