

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1778

S.P. 602

In Senate, May 23, 2019

**An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Children's Cabinet and
Its Advisory Councils**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)
Cosponsored by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland and
Senators: CARSON of Cumberland, POULIOT of Kennebec, Representative: BRENNAN of
Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§35-B**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 158, §1, is
3 repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-J, sub-§16**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 683, Pt. A, §1, is
5 repealed.

6 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §12004-J, sub-§18** is enacted to read:

7	<u>18.</u>		
8	<u>Children</u>	<u>Maine Children's</u>	<u>Legislative Per</u>
9		<u>Cabinet Early</u>	<u>Diem and Expenses</u>
10		<u>Childhood Advisory</u>	<u>for Legislators</u>
11		<u>Council</u>	<u>5 MRSA §24051</u>

12 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §19131, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended
13 to read:

14 **1. Establishment.** The Children's Cabinet, referred to in this chapter as the
15 "cabinet," is established to promote and support active, vigorous and frequent
16 interdepartmental collaboration on children's children and youth policy development and
17 program implementation and to support supporting the provision of services for Maine
18 families and children and youth that are planned, managed and delivered in a ~~holistic and~~
19 an integrated manner to improve their support and enhance educational opportunities,
20 self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and quality of life well-being.

21 **Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §19131, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended
22 to read:

23 **3. Chair.** The Governor shall appoint one of the members servng pursuant to
24 subsection 2, paragraphs A to F to serve as chair of the cabinet. The term of the chair is ~~2~~
25 years one year.

26 **Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §19131, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

27 **4. Meetings.** The cabinet shall meet at least 4 times per year.

28 **Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §19132**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended to read:

29 **§19132. Duties of the cabinet**

30 The cabinet shall collaborate to create, manage and promote coordinated policies,
31 finances, programs and service delivery systems that to support children, youth and
32 families and communities consistent with the purposes of this chapter. To accomplish
33 these purposes, the cabinet shall carry out the following duties:

1 **1. Regional children's cabinets.** Appoint regional children's cabinets to ensure that
2 the purposes of this chapter are implemented at the regional and local levels;

3 ~~**2. Subcommittees.** Appoint subcommittees, which may include members from any
4 public or private agency, advisory committee or any citizen, who has appropriate interest
5 and expertise, as may be necessary to carry out the work of the cabinet;~~

6 **3. Coordinated funding; collaboration.** Coordinate funding, grants and budgets
7 among the departments of the cabinet related to child, youth and family services in order
8 to carry out the purpose of this chapter, collaborate to share resources, remove barriers
9 and support innovative initiatives, prevention and best practices that prevent address
10 health and behavioral problems in children and youth;

11 **4. Data collection, planning and policy development.** ~~Conduct~~ Determine
12 effective data sources to allow analysis leading to integrated and innovative approaches to
13 identified priority areas of need of the cabinet and conduct long-range planning and
14 policy development leading to a more effective public and private service delivery
15 system;

16 ~~**5. Coordinated service delivery.** Coordinate the delivery of residential and
17 community-based children's services among the departments;~~

18 ~~**6. Assessment.** Assess resource capacity and allocations;~~

19 **7. Policy and program review.** Improve Update policies, statutes, rules and
20 programs through the review of specific case examples to ensure consistency across all
21 departments in addressing the cabinet's priority areas; and

22 **8. Communication.** Broadly and transparently communicate the work of the
23 cabinet: through a variety of mechanisms;

24 **9. Program implementation and oversight.** Initiate, implement and oversee
25 programs, policies and services consistent with the purposes of this chapter; and

26 **10. Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council.** Oversee the
27 Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council, established under section
28 24051, and direct a representative of the cabinet to meet at least once yearly with the
29 Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council and consult with one or
30 more state-designated groups representing youth issues regarding goals selected by the
31 Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council.

32 **Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §19133**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended to read:

33 **§19133. Program implementation and oversight**

34 The cabinet shall initiate, implement and oversee programs, policies and services
35 consistent with the purposes of this chapter, ~~which may include but are not limited to:~~

36 ~~**1. Communities for Children.** Supporting a collaborative effort between
37 communities and State Government, known as Communities for Children, to effectively~~

1 address problems facing the State's children and families by mobilizing the resources of
2 State Government with resources and leadership at the community level;

3 ~~2. Effectiveness indicators.~~ Identifying indicators to measure child well-being to be
4 used by Maine policy makers;

5 ~~3. Safe homes.~~ Working to ensure that all children have a safe and permanent home;

6 ~~4. Civil and caring school environments.~~ Providing civil and caring school
7 environments in which violence is eliminated and the health needs of students are
8 provided for;

9 ~~5. Supportive communities.~~ Focusing community members and resources to
10 support goal setting, counseling and mentoring for every child;

11 ~~6. Reducing suicide.~~ Reducing the incidence of suicide among Maine youth and
12 improving access to appropriate prevention and intervention services;

13 ~~7. Access to information and referral.~~ Ensuring easy access to information and
14 referral services regarding child and family services;

15 ~~8. Service coordination.~~ Coordinating social services to children and their families
16 as an integrated whole and facilitating access to all services needed by family members;

17 ~~9. Ensuring services.~~ Ensuring coordination of services to parents of children birth
18 to 5 years of age; and

19 ~~10. Local case review and resolution; pooled funds.~~ Providing services to children
20 with multiple needs within the child's community by supporting case review and
21 resolution at the local level using appropriate funds pooled from each department of the
22 cabinet.

23 **Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §19134**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended to read:

24 **§19134. Funds**

25 The cabinet is authorized to ~~solicit~~ request, receive and pool funds from the Federal
26 Government, any department, office or political subdivision of the State or any
27 individual, foundation or corporation and may expend those funds for purposes that are
28 consistent with this chapter.

29 **Sec. 10. 5 MRSA c. 621**, as amended, is repealed.

30 **Sec. 11. 5 MRSA c. 623** is enacted to read:

31 **CHAPTER 623**

32 **MAINE CHILDREN'S CABINET EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

1 **§24051. Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council**

2 **1. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
3 following terms have the following meanings.

4 A. "Cabinet" means the Children's Cabinet established in section 19131.

5 B. "Council" means the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory
6 Council established in subsection 2.

7 C. "Young children" means children from birth until they complete grade 3.

8 **2. Establishment.** The Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory
9 Council, as established in section 12004-J, subsection 18, is created to develop, maintain
10 and evaluate under the direction of the cabinet a plan for sustainable social and financial
11 investment in healthy development of the State's young children and their families.

12 **3. Membership.** The council consists of the members listed in this subsection, who
13 must have a strong interest in early childhood and early care and education and must be
14 influential in their communities:

15 A. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 B. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
17 House;

18 C. The Governor or the Governor's designee;

19 D. One person who is the parent of a young child, appointed by the Governor;

20 E. Two persons with experience in public funding and philanthropy, appointed by
21 the Governor;

22 F. One person representing child abuse and neglect prevention, appointed by the
23 Governor;

24 G. One person representing postsecondary education, appointed by the Governor;

25 H. Three persons representing statewide, membership or constituent organizations
26 that advance the well-being of young children and their families, including early care
27 and education programs, child care centers, Head Start programs, family child care
28 providers, resource development centers, programs for school-age children, child
29 development services, physicians and child advocates, nominated by their
30 organizations and appointed by the cabinet;

31 I. One person representing a business roundtable on early childhood investment,
32 appointed by the Governor;

33 J. One person with expertise in children's health or public health, appointed by the
34 Governor;

35 K. Two ex officio nonvoting members who are employees of the Department of
36 Education and direct or work in programming that affects young children, appointed
37 by the Commissioner of Education; and

1 L. Two ex officio nonvoting members who are employees of the Department of
2 Health and Human Services and direct or work in programming that affects young
3 children, appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

4 **4. Terms of appointment.** Except for ex officio members, members of the council
5 are appointed for terms of 3 years. Members who are Legislators are appointed for the
6 duration of the legislative terms in which they were appointed. Members who are not
7 Legislators may serve beyond their designated terms until their successors are appointed.

8 **5. Chair.** The Governor shall appoint a chair for the council.

9 **6. Staffing; funding.** The council may hire staff as necessary for its work and as
10 resources permit. The council may accept grant funding and other funding as may be
11 available for the work of the council from the Federal Government, any department,
12 office or political subdivision of the State or any individual, foundation or corporation.

13 **§24052. Duties**

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

15 A. Reviewing and addressing recommendations of the cabinet regarding young
16 children in the following areas:

17 (1) Early childhood policy implementation to ensure an effective public and
18 private service delivery system and reporting recommendations based upon the
19 review to the cabinet; and

20 (2) The delivery of early childhood services by the departments of the cabinet
21 and recommending improvements to increase efficiencies in the delivery of
22 services;

23 B. Advising the Department of Health and Human Services regarding:

24 (1) The coordination of child care services in the State; and

25 (2) The preparation of any application, amendment, waiver request, plan or other
26 document submitted by the department to the Federal Government regarding
27 child care funding or other early childhood services grants;

28 C. Reviewing and commenting on initiatives and plans of the cabinet related to early
29 childhood;

30 D. Submitting annually to the cabinet recommendations for changes to laws and
31 rules to reduce barriers to collaboration and coordination among federally funded and
32 state-funded programs and services for young children and the children's families and
33 to improve the quality of programs and services for young children statewide.
34 Recommendations must include, but are not limited to, methods to:

35 (1) Promote the availability of services and programs for young children and the
36 children's families across the State;

37 (2) Promote innovative programs for young children and the children's families
38 including funding models for early childhood and education programs and
39 services; and

1 (3) Enhance and improve quality and outcomes of early childhood and education
2 programs and services, including child development services, home visitation,
3 child care, education services, supervision services, health services and social
4 services; and

5 E. Developing and periodically updating a process for evaluating the council's
6 effectiveness in performing the council's duties, including advising the cabinet.

7 **Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §10, sub-§2, ¶G,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 540, §2, is
8 further amended to read:

9 G. The Maine Municipal Association; and

10 **Sec. 13. 20-A MRSA §10, sub-§2, ¶H,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 540, §3, is
11 further amended to read:

12 H. The Maine Principals Association; and

13 **Sec. 14. 20-A MRSA §10, sub-§2, ¶I,** as enacted by PL 2009, c. 540, §4, is
14 repealed.

15 **Sec. 15. 22 MRSA §3731, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 158, §2, is amended
16 to read:

17 **2. Council.** "Council" means the ~~Child-Care~~ Maine Children's Cabinet Early
18 Childhood Advisory Council established pursuant to Title 5, section ~~12004-I~~ 12004-J,
19 subsection ~~35-B~~ 18.

20 **Sec. 16. 22 MRSA §3739,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §79, is repealed.

21 SUMMARY

22 This bill:

- 23 1. Amends certain provisions governing the Children's Cabinet;
- 24 2. Eliminates the Maine Children's Growth Council;
- 25 3. Eliminates the Child Care Advisory Council; and
- 26 4. Establishes the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council to
27 develop and evaluate under the direction of the Children's Cabinet a plan for the healthy
28 development of the State's young children and their families.