

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1520

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H.P. 975

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and Department of  
Health and Human Services to Study Placing Child Care Facilities  
in Secondary Schools**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.  
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and  
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, DODGE of Belfast,  
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, MURPHY of Scarborough, RANA of Bangor, SARGENT of  
York, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

1           **Sec. 1. Department of Education and Department of Health and Human**  
2 **Services to study placing child care facilities in secondary schools. Resolved:**  
3 That the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services shall  
4 jointly study placing child care facilities in secondary schools.

5           **Sec. 2. Purposes of child care facilities in secondary schools. Resolved:** That  
6 the purposes of a child care facility in the study under this resolve include:

7           A. Providing an on-site training center for secondary school students in child  
8 development and child care courses involving the developmental stages of infants,  
9 toddlers and preschool children;

10          B. Providing nurturing quality child care and age-appropriate learning experiences in  
11 a safe and secure environment for infants, toddlers and preschool children;

12          C. Providing quality child care for secondary school staff and employees during  
13 employment hours;

14          D. Creating a source of early childhood educators and caregivers to help reduce the  
15 shortage of child care workers in the State; and

16          E. Being organized for and focusing on the needs of children and parents receiving the  
17 services and the students, staff and employees of the secondary school.

18           **Sec. 3. Characteristics of child care facilities in secondary schools.**  
19 **Resolved:** That the study under this resolve must study potential characteristics for child  
20 care facilities in secondary schools, including:

21          A. Serving children of secondary school staff and employees who are infants, toddlers  
22 and preschool children;

23          B. Being staffed by a qualified child care educator who is hired by the school  
24 administrative unit of the secondary school and receives full state benefits as an  
25 employee of the secondary school;

26          C. Serving as a classroom to provide hands-on experience as part of an early childhood  
27 education and development course or curriculum for students in grades 11 and 12, with  
28 a certificate awarded at graduation to a student who has completed 2 years of study in  
29 the course, including an adult education student under paragraph H;

30          D. Providing child care to children of students and others in the community if space is  
31 available once all children under paragraph A have been served;

32          E. Providing child care to children in the community whose family's household income  
33 is at or below the federal poverty level;

34          F. Charging a fee for child care, which may be adjusted based upon the income of the  
35 parent or guardian of the child, based upon recommendations of the Department of  
36 Education, the Department of Health and Human Services and other child care service  
37 providers, and accepting a child care voucher or other child care assistance;

38          G. Providing child care for free or at a discount to a secondary school staff member or  
39 employee as an employment incentive or benefit;

40          H. Operating from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days, coordinated with the school year,  
41 or year-round and on holidays or weekend days or operating in conjunction with adult  
42 education students who may receive a certificate under paragraph C; and

1 I. Determining adequate space, staffing and resources to provide a quality child care  
2 service.

3 **Sec. 4. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 6, 2023, the Department of  
4 Education and the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report on the  
5 study under this resolve, along with any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing  
6 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The committee may report out legislation  
7 based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This resolve directs the Department of Education and the Department of Health and  
10 Human Services to jointly study placing child care facilities in secondary schools to serve  
11 infants, toddlers and preschool children of secondary school staff and employees, and  
12 children of students and families in the community if space is available, including families  
13 with household incomes at or below the federal poverty level. The study is required to  
14 consider the purposes of such a child care facility including serving as a classroom for  
15 secondary and adult education students taking child care education and development  
16 courses, with a certificate provided for completing 2 years of course work, and  
17 characteristics of the child care facilities including charging a fee with a sliding scale for  
18 children whose family household income is at or below the federal poverty level, accepting  
19 child care vouchers or other child care assistance or providing the child care for free or at  
20 a discount to secondary school staff members and employees as an employment incentive  
21 or benefit.