

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED BY THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
December 1, 1982 to June 24, 1983  
Chapters 453-End

AND AT THE

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
September 6, 1983 to September 7, 1983  
Chapters 583-588

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES  
ANNOTATED, TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

---

J.S. McCarthy Co., Inc.  
Augusta, Maine  
1983

---

---

**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

CONTINUED

and

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

1983

---

---

## CHAPTER 576

H.P. 1066 - L.D. 1404

AN ACT to Address School Failure in  
Kindergarten and Early Elementary Grades.

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 203, sub-c. II is enacted to read:

### SUBCHAPTER II

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL PLANS FOR

#### KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 3

##### §4251. Intent

The intent of this subchapter is to encourage school administrative units to place an increased emphasis on instruction and curriculum for all children in kindergarten through grade 3. This subchapter is not intended as a method of financing existing efforts but as a way of encouraging the development of new or expanded programs.

##### §4252. Program

The initiatives local units may elect to develop may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

1. Class size. Reduce the student-teacher ratio in all classrooms within one or more grades, kindergarten through grade 3, to a recommended ratio of 15 to 1 and maximum ratio of 18 to 1;

2. Teacher training. Provide training programs for teachers in screening, educational diagnosis, program prescription or program development;

3. Screening. Establish or expand preschool or early childhood screening programs and the development of individualized educational prescription based on the findings of the screening;

4. Two-year kindergarten. Encourage the development of 2-year kindergartens in conformity with section 5201, subsection 2, paragraph C;

5. Multigrade classrooms. Establish classroom

units of more than one grade level; and

6. Learning environment. Develop a learning environment which would encourage each student to learn and progress at their own functional level.

§4253. Program approval

School administrative units wishing to develop programs shall submit plan proposals for approval to the department. The department shall monitor the implementation of the plans and evaluate their effectiveness before the excess costs may be included as allowable costs under section 4254, subsection 3.

§4254. Funding

1. Allowable costs. Allowable costs shall be the excess cost of implementing approved plans.

2. First and 2nd years. Allowable costs in the first and 2nd years shall be funded through a grant made on the same matching basis as the division of state and local shares in the unit's state and local allocation in the year prior to the year of allocation.

3. Third and subsequent years. For plans which have been evaluated as effective by the department, allowable costs may be added to the school units subsidized cost under chapter 605.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§5, ¶¶F and G, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to read:

F. Transportation; and

G. Debt service; and

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§5, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. Early childhood educational plans.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§16, ¶¶G and H, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to read:

G. Vocational education costs in subsection 24; and

H. Costs of maintaining:

(1) The Governor Baxter State School for the Deaf;

(2) The Maine Youth Center;

(3) Schools in the unorganized territories as defined in section 3201; and

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§16, ¶I is enacted to read:

I. Early childhood educational plans.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15503, sub-§26 is enacted to read:

26. Early childhood educational plans. "Early childhood educational plans" mean the excess costs of approved plans implemented under chapter 203, subchapter II.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §15504, sub-§1, ¶¶N and O, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, are amended to read:

N. Local funds raised under section 15512; and

O. Cost of state expenditures for teachers' retirement benefits; and

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §15504, sub-§1, ¶P is enacted to read:

P. Early childhood educational plans.

Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §15505, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

A. The requested funding levels of section 15504, subsection 1, paragraph C; paragraph D, subparagraph (1) and paragraphs E and K; transportation operating costs under paragraph F; and the insured value factor under ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs G and P shall be the actual costs for the base year.

Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §15506, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

§15506. Governor's recommendation for funding levels

The Bureau of the Budget shall annually certify to the Legislature the funding levels which the Governor recommends for section 15504, subsection 1, paragraphs A to K and P, and the state's maximum obligation under section 15511, subsection 3. The Governor's recommendations shall be transmitted to the Legislature within the time schedule set by Title 5, section 1666.

Sec. 11. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

|   | <u>1983-84</u> | <u>1984-85</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <u>EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES,</u> |                |                |
| <u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>                      |                |                |
| All Other                                 | \$100,000      | \$150,000      |

Effective September 23, 1983.

---

## CHAPTER 577

S.P. 626 - L.D. 1764

AN ACT to Revise the General Assistance  
Laws.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1161 is enacted to read:

### CHAPTER 1161

#### MUNICIPAL GENERAL ASSISTANCE

##### §4301. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Basic necessities. "Basic necessities" means food, clothing, shelter, fuel, electricity, nonelective medical services as recommended by a physician, telephone where it is necessary for medical reasons and any other commodity or service determined essential by the overseer in accordance with the municipality's ordinance and this chapter.

2. Dwelling unit. "Dwelling unit" means a building or part thereof used for separate living quarters for one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit.

3. Eligible person. "Eligible person" means a person who is qualified to receive general assistance from a municipality according to standards of eligibility determined by the municipal officers whether or not that person has applied for general assistance.