

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

December 5, 1984 to June 20, 1985
Chapters 384-End

AND AT THE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

November 13, 1985

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF REVISOR OF STATUTES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Co., Inc.
Augusta, Maine
1985

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

CONTINUED

and

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

1985

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3873, for grants of \$6,000 or less awarded to community coordinating committees, the department may waive the provisions of section 3875, which designates the membership of a community coordinating committee, and may award the grant directly to an unincorporated committee. No community coordinating committee may receive more than 3 grants under the provisions of the waivers provided by this section.

Effective September 19, 1985.

CHAPTER 484

H.P. 964 - L.D. 1385

AN ACT to Prevent Developmental Disabilities in Maine.

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

22 MRSA c. 962 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 962

PREVENTION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

§3571. Prevention of developmental disabilities

1. Prevention of developmental disabilities; Department of Human Services. The Department of Human Services shall serve as the principal agency for the primary prevention of developmental disabilities in the State and shall provide services for pregnant women and new mothers to minimize the likelihood of their having a developmentally disabled child. In particular, the department shall conduct professional education to assure that the best available prevention techniques are utilized by health care professionals in the State and shall assure that access to prenatal services exists for all women of childbearing age in the State.

2. Counseling and support services; Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation shall institute programs of family counseling and support services for families with developmentally disabled children aged 0 to 5 years. The purpose of these counseling and support services shall be to increase the family's understanding of the child's special

needs and to enhance family members' abilities to cope with the physical and emotional strains experienced by families with handicapped children.

3. Preschool coordination projects; Department of Educational and Cultural Services. The Department of Educational and Cultural Services through the preschool coordination projects shall assure the provision of comprehensive developmental services, including physical therapy, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy to preschool handicapped or delayed children. To the maximum extent possible, these programs shall make use of existing 3rd party payors and coordinate services with local resources. In instances where needed services are not available, the department shall use authorized funds to enable preschool coordination projects to work with local providers, including public and private agencies and school units to develop new or expand existing service to meet these needs.

In addition, the Department of Educational and Cultural Services shall assure that comprehensive health educational programs are available in state schools and that teacher training programs in the State include preparation in conduct of health educational programs.

§3572. Use of private agencies to deliver services

Private agencies shall be used as appropriate to carry out the implementation of initiatives to prevent developmental disabilities in cooperation with the respective departments so that State Government agencies do not duplicate existing resources in the community and so that all available resources are used effectively to rapidly achieve the goal of preventing developmental disabilities in the State.

§3573. Reporting

The Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Department of Educational and Cultural Services shall by January of each year submit a joint report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human resources regarding the prevention activities conducted over the past fiscal year, plans for the succeeding year and a report on the incidence rate of births of developmentally disabled children in the State.

Effective September 19, 1985.
