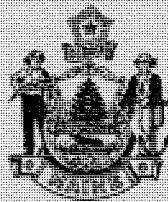


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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)



**THE VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION OF PRE-SCHOOL
TEACHERS AND TEACHER AIDES**

A Report Prepared for the 106th Maine Legislature

February 1, 1973

by the

MAINE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Printed under Appropriation 1680.1



STATE OF MAINE
MAINE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Hon. Kenneth M. Curtis
Governor
State House
Augusta, Maine 04330

Hon. Bennett Katz
Senate
Westwood Road
Augusta, Maine 04330

Hon. H. Sawin Millett, Jr.
House of Representatives
Box 27
Dixmont, Maine 04932

Dr. Carroll R. McGary
Commissioner of Education
State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dr. Donald R. McNeil
Chancellor
University of Maine
228 Deering Avenue
Portland, Maine 04102

Father Charles Murphy
Director of Education
Diocese of Portland
510 Ocean Avenue
Portland, Maine 04100

Dr. Thomas Hedley Reynolds
President, Bates College
Lewiston, Maine 04240

Mrs. Marion M. Bagley
Machias Memorial High School
Machias, Maine 04654

Mr. Clyde Bartlett
Assistant Superintendent
Portland Public Schools
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04111

Mr. Frederick Boyce
12 Woodmere Road
Portland, Maine 04100

Prof. Paul Hazelton
Department of Education
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Mr. Dale Higgins
Superintendent of Schools
Maine School Union 92
Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Mr. Kenneth Shade
RFD 1
Skowhegan, Maine 04876

Dr. Lincoln T. Fish, Chairman
University of Maine at Portland-Gorham
Gorham, Maine 04038

February 1, 1973

Honorable Members of the 106th Legislature:

The Maine Education Council is pleased to present this brief report as its response to H.P. 1590, AN ORDER signed by Representative Georgette B. Berube directing the Council to study and make recommendations on the professional status of Head Start teachers and teacher aides.

A committee was formed made up of experts in the field of child development and head start teachers and supervisors. The Committee met twice and generally agreed that the training programs available within the State; such as, The Head Start Supplementary Training Program, and the programs in child development at the University of Maine, Farmington, and the University of Maine, Orono, were sufficient to serve the initial needs of Head Start personnel provided that certification of Head Start personnel were authorized by the Legislature.

The Council believes that the first step in improving the professional status of Head Start personnel is to request the 106th Legislature to authorize the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to certify, on a voluntary basis, all teachers and teacher aides in pre-school educational programs.

The implementing legislation for this first step is found in the body of this report.

For the Maine Education Council,

Lincoln T. Fish, Chairman

Statement of the Problem

In September, 1972 about 1500 four-year old children were enrolled in federally supported Head Start programs in Maine. The approximately 175 teachers and teacher aides who conduct these programs were selected by Head Start Center Directors and their local Policy Committees following procedures outlined in a Manual of Policies approved by the U. S. Office of Child Development.

Perhaps because no State of Maine funds are directly expended on the Head Start programs, the Maine Legislature has not required the State Department of Education to establish standards for preparation and issue certificates of any kind to Head Start teachers and teacher aides.

This oversight on the part of the Legislature has precluded the formulation of statewide criteria for employment, retention and promotion, in-service training programs leading to degrees, and minimum salaries, and has greatly inhibited the development of a spirit of professionalism among Head Start personnel.

Recommendations

The Maine Education Council recommends the following action as a result of its investigation.

Section 59 of Title 20 should be amended to include all teachers or teacher aides working in pre-school educational programs.

Section 1751 should be amended to permit voluntary certification of all teachers, assistant teachers, and teacher aides working in pre-school educational programs.

The Present Law

Section 59. Certification of teachers

The board shall, in accordance with such rules and regulations as it prescribes, authorize the certification of teachers and other professional personnel for service in any public school in the State, or in any nonpublic school which accepts public funds for tuition or is approved for attendance purposes under section 911. The board may, in accordance with such rules and regulations as it prescribes, authorize the certification of adult education teachers, and other teaching and professional personnel in publicly supported education programs other than those in the public schools, post-high school institutes, colleges and universities. The board may, in accordance with such rules and regulations as it prescribes, authorize the employment of teacher aides, teacher assistants or other semiprofessional personnel for service in the kinds of schools described in this section.

Section 1751. Certificate; regulation; revocation

Certificates shall be issued by the commissioner, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, to teachers and other professional personnel for service in any public elementary or secondary school in the State or in any such nonpublic school as accepts public funds for tuition. Authorizations may be granted by the commissioner, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board for the employment of teacher aides, teacher assistants or other semiprofessional personnel for service in the kinds of schools described in this section.

The Present Law (cont'd)

No certificate shall be granted to any person unless he furnishes evidence of good moral character, and no certificate shall be granted for elementary school teaching to any person who cannot present satisfactory evidence of training in physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcohol, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system.

Certificates may, under rules prescribed by the board, be granted to persons holding certificates granted by authority of other states.

Any certificate granted under this or any preceding law may for sufficient cause be revoked and annulled. Nothing in this section relative to revocation of teachers' certificates shall be retroactive. Any teacher whose certificate has been revoked shall be granted a hearing on request before a committee, one member to be selected by the commissioner, the 2nd by the teacher involved and the 3rd by the other 2 members. The hearings before this committee may be public at their discretion and their decision shall be final.

Proposed Amendments to the Present Law

AN ACT Relating to the Certification of Teachers, Assistants, and Teacher Aides employed in Private Kindergartens, Private Nursery Schools, and other Pre-School Programs.

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

Sec. I. R.S., T. 20 sec. 59, amended. The second sentence of section 59 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

The ~~board~~ Commissioner ~~may~~ shall, in accordance with such rules and regulations as ~~it prescribes~~ he may prescribe, authorize the certification of adult education teachers, teachers in private kindergartens and private nursery schools and other pre-school programs, and other teaching and professional personnel in publicly supported education programs other than those in the public schools, post-high school institutes, colleges and universities.

Sec. 2. R.S., T. 20, sec. 1751, amended. The first paragraph of section 1751 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 3 of chapter 335 of the Public Laws of 1967, is further amended to read as follows:

Certificates shall be issued by the commissioner, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, to teachers and other professional personnel for service in any public elementary or secondary school in the State or in any such nonpublic school as accepts public funds for tuition. Teachers in nonpublic educational programs may be certified on a voluntary basis. Authorizations may be granted by the commissioner, under rules and regulations prescribed by the board, for the employment of teacher aides, teacher assistants or other semi-professional personnel for service in the kinds of schools described ~~in this section~~ in section 59.

Members of the Ad-Hoc Committee on H. P. 1590

Miss Janet Covell, Educational Co-ordinator
Northern Kennebec Valley Community Action Council

Mrs. Dorothy B. Dalton, Assistant to Director
School of Human Development
University of Maine at Orono

Miss Geraldine Kearns, Head Start Teacher
Penquis Community Action Program, Inc.

Mr. Norman J. LaPointe, Project Director
Head Start Supplementary Training Program
University of Maine at Portland-Gorham

Mrs. Ruth Leino, Head Start Director
Oxford County Economic Opportunity Council
87 Main Street
Norway, Maine, 04268

Mrs. Muriel Pendexter
Head Start Educational Supervisor
Androscoggin County Task Force
56 Birch Street
Lewiston, Maine, 04264

Mrs. Villa Quinn, Consultant, Elementary Education
State Department of Education

Miss Lita Smith, Head Start Secretary
Franklin County Community Action Council, Inc.

Miss Martha Wasgatt, Professor of Child Development
University of Maine at Farmington

Mr. David W. Wheeler, Director, Adult Education Division
University of Maine at Augusta

STATE OF MAINE

In House February 25, 1972

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that the Maine Education Council, established under chapter 452 of the public laws of 1967, is authorized and directed to study the academic and field training, certification, diploma and degree requirements for professionals, paraprofessionals and teacher aides in the Maine Head Start programs; and be it further

ORDERED, that the council submit a written report of its findings, together with any necessary recommendations and implementing legislation, to the next regular or special session of the Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, upon passage, in concurrence, that a copy of this Order be immediately transmitted to said council as notice of this proposed study.

George H. ...

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

READ AND PASSED

FEB 25 1972

MP 1500

George H. ...

CLERK

IN SENATE CHAMBER

IN SENATE CHAMBER

READ AND PASSED

READ AND PASSED

FEB 29 1972

FEB 25 1972

READ AND PASSED

IN SENATE CHAMBER

HENRY H. ...

Henry H. ...
HENRY H. ...

(Mrs. Berube)

Name:

Town: Lewiston