

LD 1065 An Act to Enhance the Education Opportunities for Maine's Early Childhood Workers

Bill sponsor: Rep. Kimberly Silsby
Referred to: Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Committee vote: Carried Over

SUMMARY

LD 1065 proposed to make ongoing and one-time appropriations to increase educational opportunities for child care workers.

Quality Child Care Education Scholarships. LD 1065 proposes to make ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$125,000 per year to increase the number of scholarships awarded by FAME under the Quality Child Care Education Scholarship Fund and to direct FAME to adopt rules make nonmatriculated students eligible for a grant under this fund.

Supporters state that Maine's child care work force is lacking in post secondary education and that appropriate post-secondary education is not available to the majority of adults working with young children in Maine.

Specialized Degree Program. It also proposes to make a one-time appropriation of \$200,000 to the University of Maine System to develop a degree program specializing in training providers to work with preschool children with special needs.

Supporters state that sufficient technical expertise is unavailable to provide the understanding and support needed for children with special needs in order to accomplish the difficult task of integrating these children into mainstream child care settings.

General Fund Cost: \$200,000 one-time and \$125,000 annually