for every child 4 years of age residing in the school administrative unit to attend a public preschool program, or a program affiliated with the school administrative unit, meeting the requirements of basic school approval. It is the goal of the State to provide adequate start-up funding to ensure that public preschool programs for children 4 years of age are offered by all school administrative units by the ~~2018-2019~~ 2023-2024 school year.

Sec. UUUU-2. Development of recommendations; report. In order to meet the goal of ensuring that public preschool programs for children 4 years of age are offered by all school administrative units by the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4501, the Department of Education shall develop recommendations, including recommended legislation, for the implementation of universal public preschool for children 4 years of age. The recommendations must include, but are not limited to:

1. Standards for public preschool programs;

2. A process for approval and certification of programs not operated by a school administrative unit, including, but not limited to, a Head Start program or other program affiliated with the school administrative unit; and

3. Funding for public preschool programs, including funding options that will encourage school administrative units to implement new public preschool programs or expand existing public preschool programs.

No later than January 1, 2020, the Department of Education shall submit a report of its recommendations, including recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint standing committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature to implement the recommendations included in the report.

PART VVVV

Sec. VVVV-1. Legislature to contract for independent review of the State's early childhood special education services. The Legislature, through the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, referred to in this Part as "the joint standing committee," may contract with a qualified research and technical assistance entity to conduct pursuant to sections 5 and 6 an independent review of the State's early childhood special education services and develop recommendations and an implementation plan.

Sec. VVVV-2. Assistance; request for proposals process. At the direction of the joint standing committee, the Office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, referred to in this Part as "the office," shall develop and administer a request for proposals process to permit the Legislature, through the joint standing committee, to award a contract pursuant to section 1. The office, with the advice and assistance of the Independent Review Advisory Committee, established under section 4 and referred to in this Part as "the advisory committee," and in consultation with and with the approval of the joint standing committee, shall:

1. Develop and administer a request for proposals process in accordance with section 3;

2. Administer the contract entered into pursuant to section 1, including monitoring the research and technical assistance entity's performance in meeting deadlines, providing deliverables pursuant to sections 5 and 6 and complying with other terms of the contract; and

3. Within available resources, provide other assistance to the joint standing committee relating to the contract and the purposes of this Part.

Sec. VVVV-3. Request for proposals; standards and selection process. The office, with the advice and assistance of the advisory committee, and in consultation with and with the approval of the joint standing committee, shall administer a request for proposals process in accordance with this section.

1. The qualifications of a research and technical assistance entity submitting a proposal must include, but are not limited to, the financial, technical and operational capacity of the entity to conduct state-level education policy research and fiscal analysis, as demonstrated by the entity's professional experience and expertise.

2. With the approval of the joint standing committee, the office shall issue a request for proposals and publish notice of the request on the Legislature's publicly accessible website and through advertisements in 2 or more public newspapers circulated wholly or in part in the State and may provide any further notice of the request to any other media or entities, as approved by the joint standing committee. The notice must provide that the office will accept, for 30 days after the first date of publication, proposals from qualified research and technical assistance entities that meet the standards approved by the joint standing committee.

3. After proposals have been received and the period for accepting proposals has expired, the office, with the advice and counsel of the advisory committee, shall evaluate the proposals and present a ranking of or recommendations regarding the proposals to the joint standing committee. The joint standing committee shall review the recommendations and choose the proposal it wishes to accept. The joint standing committee shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council of its selection of a proposal. The executive director shall execute a contract with the selected research and technical assistance entity on behalf of the Legislature.

4. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 402, except for the name and mailing address of a research and technical assistance entity that submits a proposal, the proposal and all other materials prepared, used or submitted in connection with the proposal are confidential and are not subject to public review until the period for accepting proposals has expired.

Sec. VVVV-4. Independent Review Advisory Committee. The Independent Review Advisory Committee is established to advise the office and joint standing committee on matters related to developing a request for proposals and administering the

contract entered into pursuant to this Part. The advisory committee consists of the following members:

1. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

2. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

3. One member who is a contracted service provider of early intervention and free, appropriate public education services appointed by the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Maine Association for Community Service Providers;

4. One member who is a representative of a Head Start agency or program, representing Head Start programs in the State appointed by the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Maine Head Start Directors Association;

5. One member who is a teacher in an early childhood education program for children 4 years of age that includes coordination of programs and services for eligible children within a public elementary school from a large school administrative unit appointed by the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Maine Education Association;

6. One member who is a principal of a public elementary school of an urban school administrative unit that has implemented an early childhood education program for children 4 years of age that includes coordination of programs and services for eligible children appointed by the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Maine Principals' Association;

7. One member appointed by the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 66;

8. One member representing a statewide association of speech, language and hearing therapists appointed by the President of the Senate from a list provided by the Maine Speech Language Hearing Association;

9. One member who is a parent of a child with a disability between 3 years of age and 5 years of age appointed by the Speaker of the House from a list provided by the Maine Parent Federation;

10. One member who is a representative of a child care program appointed by the Speaker of the House from a list provided by the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children;

11. One member who is a special education director from a small school administrative unit appointed the Speaker of the House from a list provided by the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities;

12. One member who is a superintendent of a rural school administrative unit that has implemented an early childhood education program for children 4 years of age that includes coordination of programs and services for eligible children appointed by the

Speaker of the House from a list provided by the Maine School Superintendents Association; and

13. One member representing a statewide association of occupational therapists appointed by the Speaker of the House from a list provided by the Maine Occupational Therapy Association.

The advisory committee shall elect a chair from among its members. The office shall provide to the members of the joint standing committee notice of the meetings of the office with the advisory committee so that members of the joint standing committee may attend.

Sec. VVVV-5. Scope of the review. The contract entered into pursuant to section 1 must require an objective evaluation of the State's early childhood special education services from birth to 5 years of age. The evaluation must include, but is not limited to, comparisons between this State and other comparable states and an implementation plan for the transition of services from the Child Development Services System under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7209 to local school administrative units and must address the following:

1. National trends and relevant models of governing and delivering early childhood special education systems in other states and jurisdictions that hold the potential for enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency or accountability of the early childhood special education system in the State;

2. The short-term and long-term costs and benefits of the proposed plan to restructure the Child Development Services System as presented to the Legislature in An Act To Reorganize the Provision of Services for Children with Disabilities from Birth to 5 Years of Age, L.D. 1715 from the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature;

3. The impact that the proposed plan will have on the following:

A. Current Child Development Services System staff, including but not limited to the potential impact on staff retirement and how any negative impact on staff retirement can be reduced or eliminated and whether Child Development Services System employees would become employees of the local school administrative unit or the State;

B. Current school administrative unit staff;

C. The provision of services for children birth to 3 years of age; and

D. Due process complaints;

4. The development of recommendations for an early childhood special education services program plan for the State, which must include, but is not limited to:

A. Models of best practices;

B. Fiscally sound budget forecasting, including all possible revenue streams and updated costs;

C. Transportation services;

D. Data systems, including a billing system, a system that allows coordination with the MaineCare program and a case management documentation system;

E. A timeline for the implementation of the plan under this section;

F. A procedure for data collection and analysis conducted by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute;

G. A method for assessing a school administrative unit's capacity for implementing early childhood special education programs;

H. Training requirements for service providers and leaders;

I. A public information communication strategy for implementation of the plan;

J. Identification of potential revisions to the Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual; and

K. Workforce capacity, including but not limited to the availability of certified teachers; and

5. A step-by-step implementation plan for the transition of special education services for children from birth to 3 years of age to the Department of Education and a step-by-step implementation plan for the transition of special education services for children 3 years of age to 5 years of age to local school administrative units, including but not limited to the resources required, both human and financial, and a detailed timeline.

Sec. VVVV-6. General requirements of the review. The contract entered into pursuant to section 1 must require:

1. A review of previous studies and available data related to early childhood special education, including but not limited to the findings and recommendations of the Subcommittee To Study Early Childhood Special Education in its January 2007 report and the findings and recommendations of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability in its July 2012 report on child development services; and

2. The selected research and technical assistance entity to provide opportunities for input from education stakeholder groups in the State as part of its evaluation.

The Department of Education, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services and the Education Research Institute established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10 shall provide the selected research and technical assistance entity with access to previous reports on school funding in the State and access to database information necessary to carry out the evaluation.

Sec. VVVV-7. Preliminary and final reports. The research and technical assistance entity selected to conduct the independent review pursuant to this Part shall present a preliminary report of the results of the review under sections 5 and 6 to the joint standing committee no later than April 1, 2020. The selected research and technical assistance entity shall present a final report to the joint standing committee by December 1, 2020. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over

education matters may submit a bill relating to the final report to the First Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

Sec. VVVV-8. Committee meetings authorized. The joint standing committee may meet up to 4 times to carry out its responsibilities under this Part.

Sec. VVVV-9. Transfer from Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account; General Fund unappropriated surplus; fiscal year 2019-20. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer $200,000 from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education to the General Fund unappropriated surplus no later than July 31, 2019.

Sec. VVVV-10. Transfer from Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account; General Fund unappropriated surplus; fiscal year 2020-21. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer $300,000 from the Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education to the General Fund unappropriated surplus no later than July 31, 2020.

PART WWWW

Sec. WWWW-1. Allocation to fund county and regional jails. The additional one-time funding of $3,000,000 in fiscal year 2019-20 and $3,000,000 in fiscal year 2020-21 provided pursuant to Part A of this Act to the Department of Corrections, County Jail Operations Fund for county and regional jails to offset unusually high costs in the jails must be allocated as provided in this section.

1. Fiscal year 2019-20. The $3,000,000 appropriated in fiscal year 2019-20 must be allocated to jails to offset shortfalls and unanticipated expenses incurred in fiscal year 2018-19 as specified in this subsection.

A. The amount of $2,898,761 must be allocated to the following jails in the following manner:

(1) To Androscoggin County Jail, $354,895;

(2) To Aroostook County Jail, $270,916;

(3) To Cumberland County Jail, $298,069;

(4) To Franklin County Jail, $167,453;

(5) To Hancock County Jail, $120,000;

(6) To Oxford County Jail, $691,718;

(7) To Piscataquis County Jail, $225,626;

(8) To Somerset County Jail, $484,265;