



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1778

S.P. 602

In Senate, May 23, 2019

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**An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Children's Cabinet and  
Its Advisory Councils**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)  
Cosponsored by Representative FARNSWORTH of Portland and  
Senators: CARSON of Cumberland, POULIOT of Kennebec, Representative: BRENNAN of  
Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§35-B**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 158, §1, is  
3 repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-J, sub-§16**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 683, Pt. A, §1, is  
5 repealed.

6 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §12004-J, sub-§18** is enacted to read:

7 **18.**  
8 Children Maine Children's Legislative Per 5 MRSA §24051  
9 Cabinet Early Diem and Expenses  
10 Childhood Advisory for Legislators  
11 Council

12 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §19131, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended  
13 to read:

14 **1. Establishment.** The Children's Cabinet, referred to in this chapter as the  
15 "cabinet," is established to promote and support active, vigorous and frequent  
16 interdepartmental collaboration on children's children and youth policy development and  
17 program implementation ~~and to support~~ supporting the provision of services for Maine  
18 families ~~and~~ children and youth that are planned, managed and delivered in a ~~holistic and~~  
19 an integrated manner to ~~improve their~~ support and enhance educational opportunities,  
20 self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and ~~quality of life~~ well-being.

21 **Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §19131, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended  
22 to read:

23 **3. Chair.** The Governor shall appoint one of the members serving pursuant to  
24 subsection 2, paragraphs A to F to serve as chair of the cabinet. The term of the chair is ~~2~~  
25 years one year.

26 **Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §19131, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

27 **4. Meetings.** The cabinet shall meet at least 4 times per year.

28 **Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §19132**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended to read:

29 **§19132. Duties of the cabinet**

30 The cabinet shall collaborate to create, manage and promote coordinated policies,  
31 finances, programs and service delivery systems ~~that~~ to support children, youth and  
32 families ~~and communities~~ consistent with the purposes of this chapter. To accomplish  
33 these purposes, the cabinet shall carry out the following duties:

1           **1. Regional children's cabinets.** Appoint regional children's cabinets to ensure that  
2 the purposes of this chapter are implemented at the regional and local levels;

3           ~~**2. Subcommittees.** Appoint subcommittees, which may include members from any  
4 public or private agency, advisory committee or any citizen, who has appropriate interest  
5 and expertise, as may be necessary to carry out the work of the cabinet;~~

6           **3. Coordinated funding; collaboration.** Coordinate funding, grants and budgets  
7 among the departments of the cabinet related to child, youth and family services in order  
8 to carry out the purpose of this chapter, collaborate to share resources, remove barriers  
9 and support innovative initiatives, prevention and best practices that ~~prevent~~ address  
10 health and behavioral problems in children and youth;

11           **4. Data collection, planning and policy development.** ~~Conduct~~ Determine  
12 effective data sources to allow analysis leading to integrated and innovative approaches to  
13 identified priority areas of need of the cabinet and conduct long-range planning and  
14 policy development leading to a more effective public and private service delivery  
15 system;

16           ~~**5. Coordinated service delivery.** Coordinate the delivery of residential and  
17 community-based children's services among the departments;~~

18           ~~**6. Assessment.** Assess resource capacity and allocations;~~

19           **7. Policy and program review.** Improve Update policies, statutes, rules and  
20 programs through the review of specific case examples to ensure consistency across all  
21 departments in addressing the cabinet's priority areas; and

22           **8. Communication.** Broadly and transparently communicate the work of the  
23 cabinet: through a variety of mechanisms;

24           **9. Program implementation and oversight.** Initiate, implement and oversee  
25 programs, policies and services consistent with the purposes of this chapter; and

26           **10. Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council.** Oversee the  
27 Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council, established under section  
28 24051, and direct a representative of the cabinet to meet at least once yearly with the  
29 Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council and consult with one or  
30 more state-designated groups representing youth issues regarding goals selected by the  
31 Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council.

32           **Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §19133**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended to read:

33           **§19133. Program implementation and oversight**

34           The cabinet shall initiate, implement and oversee programs, policies and services  
35 consistent with the purposes of this chapter, ~~which may include but are not limited to:~~

36           ~~**1. Communities for Children.** Supporting a collaborative effort between  
37 communities and State Government, known as Communities for Children, to effectively~~

1 address problems facing the State's children and families by mobilizing the resources of  
2 State Government with resources and leadership at the community level;

3 ~~2. Effectiveness indicators.~~ Identifying indicators to measure child well-being to be  
4 used by Maine policy makers;

5 ~~3. Safe homes.~~ Working to ensure that all children have a safe and permanent home;

6 ~~4. Civil and caring school environments.~~ Providing civil and caring school  
7 environments in which violence is eliminated and the health needs of students are  
8 provided for;

9 ~~5. Supportive communities.~~ Focusing community members and resources to  
10 support goal setting, counseling and mentoring for every child;

11 ~~6. Reducing suicide.~~ Reducing the incidence of suicide among Maine youth and  
12 improving access to appropriate prevention and intervention services;

13 ~~7. Access to information and referral.~~ Ensuring easy access to information and  
14 referral services regarding child and family services;

15 ~~8. Service coordination.~~ Coordinating social services to children and their families  
16 as an integrated whole and facilitating access to all services needed by family members;

17 ~~9. Ensuring services.~~ Ensuring coordination of services to parents of children birth  
18 to 5 years of age; and

19 ~~10. Local case review and resolution; pooled funds.~~ Providing services to children  
20 with multiple needs within the child's community by supporting case review and  
21 resolution at the local level using appropriate funds pooled from each department of the  
22 cabinet.

23 **Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §19134**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 785, §3, is amended to read:

24 **§19134. Funds**

25 The cabinet is authorized to ~~solicit~~ request, receive and pool funds from the Federal  
26 Government, any department, office or political subdivision of the State or any  
27 individual, foundation or corporation and may expend those funds for purposes that are  
28 consistent with this chapter.

29 **Sec. 10. 5 MRSA c. 621**, as amended, is repealed.

30 **Sec. 11. 5 MRSA c. 623** is enacted to read:

31 **CHAPTER 623**

32 **MAINE CHILDREN'S CABINET EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

1           **§24051. Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council**

2           **1. Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
3 following terms have the following meanings.

4           A. "Cabinet" means the Children's Cabinet established in section 19131.

5           B. "Council" means the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory  
6 Council established in subsection 2.

7           C. "Young children" means children from birth until they complete grade 3.

8           **2. Establishment.** The Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory  
9 Council, as established in section 12004-J, subsection 18, is created to develop, maintain  
10 and evaluate under the direction of the cabinet a plan for sustainable social and financial  
11 investment in healthy development of the State's young children and their families.

12           **3. Membership.** The council consists of the members listed in this subsection, who  
13 must have a strong interest in early childhood and early care and education and must be  
14 influential in their communities:

15           A. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16           B. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
17 House;

18           C. The Governor or the Governor's designee;

19           D. One person who is the parent of a young child, appointed by the Governor;

20           E. Two persons with experience in public funding and philanthropy, appointed by  
21 the Governor;

22           F. One person representing child abuse and neglect prevention, appointed by the  
23 Governor;

24           G. One person representing postsecondary education, appointed by the Governor;

25           H. Three persons representing statewide, membership or constituent organizations  
26 that advance the well-being of young children and their families, including early care  
27 and education programs, child care centers, Head Start programs, family child care  
28 providers, resource development centers, programs for school-age children, child  
29 development services, physicians and child advocates, nominated by their  
30 organizations and appointed by the cabinet;

31           I. One person representing a business roundtable on early childhood investment,  
32 appointed by the Governor;

33           J. One person with expertise in children's health or public health, appointed by the  
34 Governor;

35           K. Two ex officio nonvoting members who are employees of the Department of  
36 Education and direct or work in programming that affects young children, appointed  
37 by the Commissioner of Education; and

1           L. Two ex officio nonvoting members who are employees of the Department of  
2           Health and Human Services and direct or work in programming that affects young  
3           children, appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

4           **4. Terms of appointment.** Except for ex officio members, members of the council  
5           are appointed for terms of 3 years. Members who are Legislators are appointed for the  
6           duration of the legislative terms in which they were appointed. Members who are not  
7           Legislators may serve beyond their designated terms until their successors are appointed.

8           **5. Chair.** The Governor shall appoint a chair for the council.

9           **6. Staffing; funding.** The council may hire staff as necessary for its work and as  
10          resources permit. The council may accept grant funding and other funding as may be  
11          available for the work of the council from the Federal Government, any department,  
12          office or political subdivision of the State or any individual, foundation or corporation.

13          **§24052. Duties**

14          **1. Duties.** The duties of the council include, but are not limited to:

15          A. Reviewing and addressing recommendations of the cabinet regarding young  
16          children in the following areas:

17                  (1) Early childhood policy implementation to ensure an effective public and  
18                  private service delivery system and reporting recommendations based upon the  
19                  review to the cabinet; and

20                  (2) The delivery of early childhood services by the departments of the cabinet  
21                  and recommending improvements to increase efficiencies in the delivery of  
22                  services;

23          B. Advising the Department of Health and Human Services regarding:

24                  (1) The coordination of child care services in the State; and

25                  (2) The preparation of any application, amendment, waiver request, plan or other  
26                  document submitted by the department to the Federal Government regarding  
27                  child care funding or other early childhood services grants;

28          C. Reviewing and commenting on initiatives and plans of the cabinet related to early  
29          childhood;

30          D. Submitting annually to the cabinet recommendations for changes to laws and  
31          rules to reduce barriers to collaboration and coordination among federally funded and  
32          state-funded programs and services for young children and the children's families and  
33          to improve the quality of programs and services for young children statewide.  
34          Recommendations must include, but are not limited to, methods to:

35                  (1) Promote the availability of services and programs for young children and the  
36                  children's families across the State;

37                  (2) Promote innovative programs for young children and the children's families  
38                  including funding models for early childhood and education programs and  
39                  services; and

