



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 130

H.P. 88

House of Representatives, January 22, 2015

**An Act To Exempt Certain Established Public Prekindergarten
Programs from New Regulations**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, DUNPHY of Old Town,
MASTRACCIO of Sanford, PIERCE of Falmouth, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SCHNECK of
Bangor, VEROW of Brewer, Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 581, §3, is
3 amended to read:

4 **4. Qualifications; rules.** To qualify for a grant under this section, a school
5 administrative unit must submit an implementation plan to the department for the
6 operation of a new or expanded public preschool program. The qualifications established
7 for implementation plans must contain standards and best practices for public preschool
8 programs and must encourage a school administrative unit to demonstrate coordination
9 with other early childhood programs in the community to maximize resources and
10 provide comprehensive services to meet the needs of children 4 years of age in
11 accordance with this subchapter and rules adopted by the commissioner. In awarding
12 grants under this section, the commissioner shall give priority to a qualified school
13 administrative unit that has a greater percentage of economically disadvantaged students
14 as determined pursuant to section 15675, subsection 2 than other qualified school
15 administrative units under this subsection and in accordance with the following order of
16 preference:

17 A. The first preference must be to award grant funds to a qualified school
18 administrative unit that does not operate a public preschool program and that submits
19 a plan for the development and operation of a new public preschool program; and

20 B. The 2nd preference must be to award grant funds to a qualified school
21 administrative unit that operates a public preschool program and that submits a plan
22 for the development and operation of an expanded public preschool program.

23 The commissioner shall adopt rules that establish criteria for the approval of
24 implementation plans and for the awarding of start-up funds for the allowable costs of
25 operating public preschool programs. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection related to
26 standards and best practices for public preschool programs do not apply to public
27 preschool programs that have been in existence for at least 3 years on September 1, 2014.
28 Public preschool programs that have been in existence for at least 3 years on September
29 1, 2014 are subject to department rules related to standards and best practices for public
30 preschool programs in effect on September 1, 2014. Rules adopted pursuant to this
31 subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill exempts public preschool programs in existence for at least 3 years on
34 September 1, 2014 from new Department of Education rules related to standards and best
35 practices for public preschool programs.