



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 684

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H.P. 453

House of Representatives, February 16, 2023

### **An Act to Implement Pilot Programs with Publicly Funded Day Care and Early Childhood Education**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.  
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and  
Representative: MATLACK of St. George.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill would establish a publicly funded education program within publicly funded  
6 day care programs using the Educare model for children from birth to 5 years of age. By  
7 connecting publicly funded day care to the kindergarten to grade 12 education system, the  
8 bill would create an affordable, accessible program for working parents. Using an Educare  
9 model in the bill will:

10 1. Allow for the use of professionally trained staff earning public school wages,  
11 allowing more people to train as early education professionals and increasing the ability to  
12 retain them;

13 2. Assist children from low-income backgrounds or with a history of trauma to achieve  
14 readiness by kindergarten, instead of leaving them 3 years behind; and

15 3. Work with parents to increase parenting skills, increase workplace skills, decrease  
16 adverse childhood events and increase the family's emotional and financial stability.

17 The bill would implement the Educare model in 3 pilot programs in 3 service center  
18 communities. Regional School Unit No. 13, which includes Rockland, must be one of the  
19 service center communities.