



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1428

S.P. 440

In Senate, March 28, 2019

**An Act To Require the State To Fund 50 Percent of Public
Preschool Programs**

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.
Cosponsored by Representative MORALES of South Portland and
Senators: CARSON of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot, Representatives: KORNFIELD of
Bangor, PERRY of Calais.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4254, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

3 **4. Minimum funding for 2nd and subsequent years.** In each year a school
4 administrative unit operates an approved public preschool program, other than the year in
5 which it receives start-up funding in accordance with section 4271, the State shall provide
6 at least 50% of the funding for the program based upon the statewide average of per-pupil
7 costs of public preschool programs. If funding is not provided under chapter 606-B to
8 carry out the provisions of this subsection, the State shall provide an amount necessary to
9 fund 50% of the public preschool program from a source other than funding provided in
10 chapter 606-B. Prior to December 15th of each year, the commissioner, with the
11 approval of the state board, shall certify to the Governor and to the Department of
12 Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget the funding levels the
13 commissioner recommends to carry out the purposes of this subsection. The
14 commissioner shall include these funding levels in the department's request to the
15 Legislature for appropriations from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this
16 subsection.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill requires the State to fund a minimum of 50% of the costs of an approved
19 public preschool program for each year a school administrative unit operates the program,
20 other than the year in which the school administrative unit receives start-up funds for the
21 program. If funds for essential programs and services do not provide the funding
22 necessary to fund a minimum of 50% of approved public preschool programs, the State is
23 directed to use other funding sources and the Commissioner of Education is directed to
24 include the funding levels necessary in the Department of Education's request to the
25 Legislature for appropriations from the General Fund.