

## **128th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

**Legislative Document** 

No. 1374

H.P. 953

House of Representatives, April 11, 2017

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Assess and Improve the Availability of Child Care Services** 

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative FREY of Bangor.

1 **Sec. 1. Child Care Advisory Council. Resolved:** That the Department of 2 Health and Human Services shall restore consistent scheduled meetings of the Child Care 3 Advisory Council in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3739, 4 subsection 3; and be it further

- 5 Sec. 2. Study. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services 6 shall contract with a 3rd party to conduct a study to:
- Assess the availability of child care in the State and the child care needs for low income working families. The assessment must determine possible child care grant and
  contracting approaches to address child care availability shortages;

Engage in cost modeling to determine the cost of child care and review the current
 tiered reimbursements for each level of the quality rating system established by the
 department pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3737, subsection 3.
 The cost modeling must reflect the actual business costs of providers and the actual cost
 of meeting the quality standards at each level of the State's quality rating system; and

15 3. Develop a system to support child care providers and parents, which must include 16 professional development for child care provider staff, assisting child care providers to 17 participate in the State's quality rating system, offering business guidance to child care 18 providers and assisting parents to identify child care, to understand the difference 19 between different services and to access available child care assistance; and be it further

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than February 1, 2018, the Department
 of Health and Human Services shall submit the findings of the study under section 2,
 including any suggested legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the
 128th Legislature.

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## SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to restore consistent scheduled meetings of the Child Care Advisory Council and directs the department to contract with a 3rd party to conduct a study to assess the availability of child care in the State, to engage in cost modeling to determine the cost of child care and to develop a system to support child care providers and parents. The department is directed to report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature no later than February 1, 2018.