**An Act To Support Child Care for Working Families**

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

**Sec.** **1. 22 MRSA §3762, sub-§8, ¶C,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 291, §6, is further amended to read:

C. The department shall make available transitional child care services to families who lose eligibility for TANF as a result of increased earnings or an increase in the number of hours worked. The department shall make available transitional child care services to families who lose eligibility for TANF as a result of increased earnings or an increase in the number of hours worked and whose gross income is equal to or less than 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. The department may also make transitional child care services available to families in which one or both adults are working and who, although they remain financially eligible for TANF benefits, request that their benefits be terminated. The family shall pay a premium ~~of 2% to~~, which may be waived but may not exceed 10% of gross income, based on the family's gross income compared to the federal poverty level in accordance with rules adopted by the department. Parents must have a choice of child care within the rate established by the department.

**SUMMARY**

This bill removes the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services charge a minimum transitional child care services premium for families who lose eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits as a result of increased earnings or an increase in the number of hours worked or who request that their benefits be terminated.