**An Act To Expand the Statewide Voluntary Early Childhood Consultation Program**

L.D. 533

Date: (Filing No. S- )

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE**

**SENATE**

**130th Legislature**

**Second Regular Session**

SENATE AMENDMENT “      ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to S.P. 220, L.D. 533, “An Act To Expand the Statewide Voluntary Early Childhood Consultation Program”

Amend the amendment by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'**Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §15011,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 481, §1, is amended to read:

**§15011. Statewide voluntary early childhood consultation program**

Beginning ~~September 1, 2020~~ January 1, 2023, the commissioner shall implement a statewide voluntary early childhood consultation program to provide support, guidance and training to improve the abilities and skills of early care and education teachers and providers working in public elementary schools, child care facilities as defined in Title 22, section 8301‑A, subsection 1‑A, paragraph B, family child care settings and Head Start programs serving infants and children who are 8 years of age or younger who are experiencing challenging behaviors that put the infants or children at risk of learning difficulties and removal from early learning and education settings, and to improve the abilities and skills of families and foster parents with infants or children who are 8 years of age or younger in the home who are experiencing challenging behaviors that put the infants or children at risk of learning difficulties and removal from early learning and education settings. Any record about a child created as a result of a consultation under this section must be made available to the parents or guardians of that child and may not become part of that child's education record. Fifty percent of the costs related to the program implemented under this section must be paid from funds provided to the department under the federal child and development block grant authorized under the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990. The department shall seek and apply for available federal funds or funds from any other source to fund the program implemented under this section.

No later than January 1, 2023 and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters relating to the status of implementing the program under this section, the ability of the program to provide support and guidance to families, educators and providers working with children and the department's progress in seeking and applying for additional funding to support the program.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.**  The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Early Childhood Consultation Program Z280**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for one Social Services Manager I position and one Social Services Program Specialist II position and related All Other funding necessary for the statewide voluntary early childhood consultation program, beginning on January 1, 2023.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **GENERAL FUND** | **2021-22** | **2022-23** |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 0.000 | 2.000 |
| Personal Services | $0 | $102,643 |
| All Other | $0 | $9,537 |
|  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | $0 | $112,180 |

**Early Childhood Consultation Program Z280**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to continue the statewide voluntary early childhood consultation program, beginning on January 1, 2023.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **GENERAL FUND** | **2021-22** | **2022-23** |
| All Other | $0 | $1,345,560 |
|  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | $0 | $1,345,560 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,** **DEPARTMENT OF** |  |  |
| **DEPARTMENT TOTALS** | **2021-22** | **2022-23** |
|  |  |  |
| **GENERAL FUND** | **$0** | **$1,457,740** |
|  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS** | **$0** | **$1,457,740** |

'

Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces Committee Amendment "A" and amends current law regarding the statewide voluntary early childhood consultation program by:

1. Delaying from September 1, 2020 to January 1, 2023 the date by which the Commissioner of Health and Human Services is required to implement the program;

2. Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to seek and apply for available federal funds or funds from any other source to fund the program; and

3. Requiring the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters relating to the status of implementing the program, the ability of the program to provide support and guidance to families, educators and providers working with children and the department's progress in seeking and applying for additional funding to support the program.

**SPONSORED BY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Senator BREEN, C.)**

**COUNTY: Cumberland**