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Date: (Filing No. S-)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 763, L.D. 1955, “An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability”

Amend the bill by inserting before section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3731-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Nonlapsing funds. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of the Maine Child Care Affordability Program may not lapse and must be carried forward in the same amount for the next fiscal year. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program from any source.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3731-B in the headnote (page 1, line 3 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "**Program Child Care**" the following: '**Employment**'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3731-B in the first indented paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 4 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "**Program Child Care**" the following: '**Employment**'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3731-B by inserting after subsection 4 the following:

5. Nonlapsing funds. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of the award may not lapse and must be carried forward in the same amount for the next fiscal year. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the award from any source.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §3737-B by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 2, lines 6 to 10 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

2. Report. Beginning on January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the department shall include in its annual report pursuant to section 3740-A the number of child care professionals participating in the program, expenditures under the program and a description of progress in implementing the tiered system required under subsection 4.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §3737-B by inserting after subsection 4 the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 '5. Nonlapsing funds. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the
2 Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of the program may not lapse
3 and must be carried forward in the same amount for the next fiscal year. The commissioner
4 may accept donations or grants for the program from any source.'

5 Amend the bill in section 4 in §3737-C by striking out all of subsection 3 (page 3, lines
6 4 to 6 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

7 '3. Nonlapsing funds. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the
8 Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of child care provider
9 scholarships and apprenticeships may not lapse and must be carried forward in the same
10 amount for the next fiscal year. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the
11 program from any source.'

12 Amend the bill in section 4 in §3737-C by striking out all of the 2nd indented paragraph
13 (page 3, lines 7 to 11 in L.D.).

14 Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

15 **'Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3740-A, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

16 **4. Child care professionals; salary.** Beginning with the January 15, 2026 report,
17 pursuant to section 3737-B, subsection 2, the number of child care professionals
18 participating in the Salary Sustainability Program for Child Care Professionals established
19 in section 3737-B.'

20 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

21 **'Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
22 allocations are made.

23 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

24 **Child Care Services 0563**

25 Initiative: Provides ongoing nonlapsing funding for the monthly wage supplement awarded
26 to child care workers under the Salary Sustainability Program for Child Care Professionals.

27	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
28	All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
29			
30	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000

31 **Child Care Services 0563**

32 Initiative: Provides ongoing nonlapsing funding to support the child care needs of families
33 in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program.

34	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
35	All Other	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
36			
37	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

38 **Child Care Services 0563**

39 Initiative: Provides one-time nonlapsing funding for the Maine Child Care Affordability
40 Program.

