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Date: (Filing No. S-)

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 853, L.D. 2064, “An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6603-A is enacted to read:

§6603-A. Early childhood nutrition grant program

The department shall create and administer, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, a grant program to provide grants to school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack in accordance with this section.

1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "off-site public preschool program" means a public preschool program offered by a public school in the State in partnership with a community provider that is not located on the site of a public school and includes, but is not limited to, a public preschool program offered at a private child care facility.

2. Eligibility. After consulting with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, the department shall adopt rules to establish eligibility standards and requirements for participation in the grant program. Eligibility standards and requirements must align with rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services for the licensing of child care facilities, including, but not limited to, child care centers, nursery schools and small child care facilities. Eligibility standards and requirements must include, but are not limited to:

A. A requirement that the off-site public preschool program meet the basic approval standards for public preschools adopted by the department;

B. A requirement that the off-site public preschool program provide food that meets the nutritional standards developed for child care centers as provided in section 6602

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 and pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 1766 and administered by the United
 2 States Department of Agriculture, child and adult food care program;

3 C. Requirements for the eligibility of school administrative units partnering with
 4 licensed child care programs for the delivery of special education services for children
 5 eligible under Part B, Section 619 as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-D; and

6 D. A requirement that a memorandum of understanding between the school
 7 administrative unit and the off-site public preschool program provider describe the
 8 process by which meals will be delivered and reimbursed.

9 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
 10 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11 **3. Awards.** Grants awarded by the department pursuant to this section are governed
 12 as follows.

13 A. The amount of a grant is limited to the total annual per-student reimbursement rate
 14 for the National School Lunch Program established in 7 Code of Federal Regulations,
 15 Part 210.

16 B. In addition to a grant under paragraph A, an eligible school administrative unit that
 17 is partnering with an off-site public preschool program may apply for an additional
 18 grant of no more than \$10,000 for infrastructure improvements, including, but not
 19 limited to, transportation or delivery of meals, to allow the off-site public preschool
 20 program to provide breakfast, lunch and a snack.

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

23 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

24 **School Finance and Operations Z078**

25 Initiative: Provides funding to establish 2 Education Specialist II positions and related All
 26 Other costs for a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into
 27 agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in
 28 those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

29 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
30 Personal Services	\$0	\$217,430
31 All Other	\$0	\$498,656
32		
33 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$716,086

34 **School Finance and Operations Z078**

35 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for start-up grant funding to eligible school
 36 administrative units that require infrastructure improvements in order to provide meals.

37 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
38 All Other	\$0	\$150,000
39		
40 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$150,000

41

1	EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
2	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
3			
4	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$866,086
5			
6	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$866,086
7			

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

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill. The
12 amendment provides that the Department of Education must administer the early childhood
13 nutrition grant program and clarifies the types of public preschool programs that are eligible
14 for a grant. The amendment also requires that an eligible public preschool program must
15 meet certain nutritional standards developed for child care centers and that the eligibility
16 standards developed by the department must align with Department of Health and Human
17 Services standards for child care centers. The amendment also requires that eligibility
18 standards for the grant program must include eligibility for school administrative units
19 partnering with licensed child care programs for the delivery of special education services
20 for children with disabilities.

21 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

22 **(See attached)**