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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  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 690, L.D. 1726, “An Act to Build Maine’s Economy by Supporting Child Care for Working Families”

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3736, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 158, §2, is amended to read:

**2. Eligibility decision within ~~30~~ 15 days; retroactive reimbursement.** The department shall determine eligibility for child care programs administered under this chapter within ~~30~~ 15 days of receiving an application. If a contractor determines eligibility, the department shall require that the contractor determine eligibility within ~~30~~ 15 days of receiving an application. The department shall provide retroactive reimbursement to a child care program that provided tuition assistance to an applicant during the application period.

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §8301-A, sub-§1-A, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 35, §17, is further amended to read:

C. "Family child care provider" means a person who provides day care in that person's home on a regular basis, for consideration, for ~~3~~ 4 to 12 children under 13 years of age who are not the children of the provider or who are not residing in the provider's home. If a provider is caring for children living in that provider's home and is caring for no more than ~~2~~ 3 other children or 4 other children if at least 2 of the children are siblings, the provider is not required to be licensed as a family child care provider.

**Sec. 3. Report on salary supplement rulemaking.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall, no later than January 15, 2024, report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on the status of its rulemaking pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3737-A.

**Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 **Child Care Services 0563**

2 Initiative: Provides funding to double the monthly salary supplement for all child care  
3 workers.

|                       |                     |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 4 <b>GENERAL FUND</b> | <b>2023-24</b>      | <b>2024-25</b>      |
| 5 All Other           | \$15,000,000        | \$15,000,000        |
| 6                     |                     |                     |
| 7 GENERAL FUND TOTAL  | <u>\$15,000,000</u> | <u>\$15,000,000</u> |

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

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill. It  
13 retains the following sections of the bill:

14 1. The requirement for the Department of Health and Human Services to determine  
15 eligibility for the child care subsidy program within 15 days of receiving an application  
16 instead of 30 days;

17 2. The requirement for the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on  
18 Health and Human Services on the status of rulemaking related to the wage supplements  
19 for child care workers, except that it changes the date of the report to January 15, 2024; and

20 3. The doubling of monthly salary supplements for all child care workers.

21 The amendment also amends current law by increasing to 3 the number of children a  
22 family child care provider may care for in the provider’s home, not including the provider’s  
23 children or children who reside in the provider’s home, before the provider is required to  
24 be licensed as a family child care provider, except that the limit is increased to 4 children  
25 if at least 2 of the children are siblings.

26 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
27 **(See attached)**