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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**

**SECOND REGULAR 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 striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability'**

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

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

**3. Donations or grants accepted; nonlapsing funds.** The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program from any source. 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.

**Sec. 2. Sustainability of Maine Child Care Affordability Program.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a long-term plan that ensures the financial sustainability of the Maine Child Care Affordability Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3731-A. The plan must include the necessary level of funding that must be appropriated in order to serve all families that qualify for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program. The department shall submit a report with the long-term plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than December 15, 2026. The committee is authorized to report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF  
Child Care Services 0563**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
2	All Other	\$0	\$15,000,000
3			
4	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<hr/> \$0	<hr/> \$15,000,000

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

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**SUMMARY**

9       This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill and  
10 changes the title and does the following.

11       1. It retains the provision of the bill that requires the Department of Health and Human  
12 Services to develop a long-term plan for the financial sustainability of the Maine Child  
13 Care Affordability Program but changes the date the department must submit the plan to  
14 the Legislature to no later than December 15, 2026.

15       2. It allows the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to accept donations or  
16 grants for the program from any source.

17       3. It clarifies that funds to support the program are nonlapsing.

18       4. It requires ongoing funding of \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 to fund the  
19 program.

20       5. It includes an appropriations and allocations section.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

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**(See attached)**