



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 93

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H.P. 59

House of Representatives, January 13, 2021

### **An Act To Improve Maine's Quality Rating System for Child Care Services**

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Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Received by the Clerk of the House on January 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3737, sub-§3**, as corrected by RR 2015, c. 1, §21, is amended  
3 to read:

4 **3. Quality differential.** To the extent permitted by federal law, the department shall  
5 pay a differential rate for child care services that meet or that make substantial progress  
6 toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards, such as those standards required  
7 by the Head Start program or required for accreditation by the National Association for the  
8 Education of Young Children, and shall do so from the Child Care Development Fund 25%  
9 Quality Set-aside funds or by other acceptable federal practices. Rules adopted pursuant  
10 to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter  
11 2-A. The rules must establish a ~~4-step~~ child care quality rating system with a minimum of  
12 3 steps and must provide for graduated quality differential rates for ~~step 2, step 3 and step~~  
13 ~~4 child care services~~ steps that demonstrate that a child care provider meets or makes  
14 substantial progress toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards.

15 Nothing in this subsection requires the department to pay a quality differential rate for child  
16 care services provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill removes language that requires a 4-step quality rating system for child care  
19 providers and instead allows the Department of Health and Human Services discretion in  
20 setting the appropriate number of steps, with a minimum of 3 steps required.