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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 59, L.D. 93, “An Act To Improve Maine’s Quality Rating System for Child Care Services ”

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The bill changes the number of steps for the quality rating system for child care providers to allow for discretion for the Department of Health and Human Services. The amendment removes the reference to the 4-step quality rating system from the law to allow the department discretion to determine the methodology for quality standards in rule.