



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

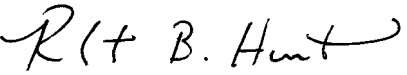
No. 1469

H.P. 961

House of Representatives, April 3, 2025

An Act to Clarify the Quality Rating System for Child Care Services in Maine

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and
Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DILL of Old Town, Speaker FECTION of
Biddeford, HAGGAN of Hampden, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3737, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 138, §1, is further 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 child care quality rating system with a minimum of 3 steps and must provide for graduated quality differential rates for steps that demonstrate that a child care provider meets or makes substantial progress toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards. The rules must provide that child care providers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Association for Family Child Care or the Council on Accreditation, or any of their successor organizations, or a Head Start program that meets national Head Start standards, receive the highest rating under the child care quality rating system.

~~Nothing in this subsection requires~~ This subsection does not require the department to pay a quality differential rate for child care services provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant.

SUMMARY

Current law requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a child care quality rating system as part of the department's quality differential rate payments. This bill specifies that child care providers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Association for Family Child Care or the Council on Accreditation or a Head Start program that meets national Head Start standards must receive the highest rating under the child care quality rating system.