

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

FIRST SPECIAL 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 inserting before section 1 the following:

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

3. Nonlapsing funds. 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. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program from any source.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3731-B in the headnote (page 1, line 3 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "**Program Child Care**" the following: "**Employment**"

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3731-B in the first indented paragraph in the first line (page 1, line 4 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "**Program Child Care**" the following: "**Employment**"

Amend the bill in section 1 in §3731-B by inserting after subsection 4 the following:

5. Nonlapsing funds. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of the award may not lapse and must be carried forward in the same amount for the next fiscal year. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the award from any source.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §3737-B by striking out all of subsection 2 (page 2, lines 6 to 10 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

2. Report. Beginning on January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the department shall include in its annual report pursuant to section 3740-A the number of child care professionals participating in the program, expenditures under the program and a description of progress in implementing the tiered system required under subsection 4.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §3737-B by inserting after subsection 4 the following:

'5. Nonlapsing funds. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of the program may not lapse and must be carried forward in the same amount for the next fiscal year. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the program from any source.'

Amend the bill in section 4 in §3737-C by striking out all of subsection 3 (page 3, lines 4 to 6 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'3. Nonlapsing funds. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of child care provider scholarships and apprenticeships may not lapse and must be carried forward in the same amount for the next fiscal year. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the program from any source.'

Amend the bill in section 4 in §3737-C by striking out all of the 2nd indented paragraph (page 3, lines 7 to 11 in L.D.).

Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

'Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3740-A, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Child care professionals; salary. Beginning with the January 15, 2026 report, pursuant to section 3737-B, subsection 2, the number of child care professionals participating in the Salary Sustainability Program for Child Care Professionals established in section 3737-B.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Child Care Services 0563

Initiative: Provides ongoing nonlapsing funding for the monthly wage supplement awarded to child care workers under the Salary Sustainability Program for Child Care Professionals.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000

Child Care Services 0563

Initiative: Provides ongoing nonlapsing funding to support the child care needs of families in the Maine Child Care Affordability Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Child Care Services 0563

Initiative: Provides one-time nonlapsing funding for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program.

1	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
2	All Other	\$3,800,000	\$0
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4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,800,000	\$0

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6	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
7	DEPARTMENT OF		
8	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
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10	GENERAL FUND	\$5,300,000	\$1,500,000
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12	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$5,300,000	\$1,500,000

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

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SUMMARY

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 This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

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 1. It clarifies that funds to support the programs in the bill are nonlapsing funds.

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 2. It changes the name of the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Child Care Award to the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Child Care Employment Award.

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 3. It requires the report on the number of child care professionals participating in the Salary Sustainability Program for Child Care Professionals to be included in the existing annual report on child care subsidies beginning with the January 15, 2026 report, rather than a separate report.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

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(See attached)