

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 59 - L.D. 93

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

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

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 with a minimum of 3 steps and must provide for graduated quality differential rates for ~~step 2, step 3 and step 4 child care services~~ steps that demonstrate that a child care provider meets or makes substantial progress toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards.

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.