



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 890

S.P. 382

In Senate, February 28, 2023

An Act to Create the Child Care Provider Student Loan Repayment Fund

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: CURRY of Waldo, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MADIGAN of Waterville, MEYER of Eliot, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1083** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 1083**

4 **CHILD CARE PROVIDER STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT FUND**

5 **§4100-A. Child Care Provider Student Loan Repayment Fund**

6 **1. Fund established.** The Child Care Provider Student Loan Repayment Fund,
7 referred to in this chapter as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing account
8 within the department to support child care workers in underserved areas of the State with
9 the repayment of student loans.

10 **2. Sources of fund.** The fund consists of funds appropriated or allocated by the State.

11 **3. Use of fund.** The department shall make distributions from the fund on a first-
12 come, first-served basis to provide up to \$6,000 annually to a child care provider that meets
13 the criteria under subsection 4 for the repayment of student loans.

14 **4. Award criteria.** In order to be eligible for a distribution under this chapter, a child
15 care provider must:

16 A. Work in an underserved area of the State;

17 B. Work at least 30 hours per week for a child care facility licensed under section
18 8301-A, subsection 2 or a family child care provider licensed under section 8301-A,
19 subsection 3;

20 C. Have worked for a child care facility licensed under section 8301-A, subsection 2
21 or a family child care provider licensed under section 8301-A, subsection 3 for at least
22 120 days prior to requesting a distribution under this chapter;

23 D. Have incurred student loans in order to attend an institution of higher education as
24 defined in Title 20-A, section 11413, subsection 11, whether or not the child care
25 provider is currently attending the institution; and

26 E. Demonstrate that the child care provider made student loan payments in the amount
27 of the requested distribution.

28 **5. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including, every
29 2 years, defining the phrase "underserved area of the State." Rules adopted pursuant to this
30 subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

31 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
32 allocations are made.

33 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

34 **Child Care Provider Student Loan Repayment Fund N425**

35 Initiative: Provides funding to establish the Child Care Provider Student Loan Repayment
36 Fund to support child care workers in underserved areas of the State with the repayment of
37 student loans.

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | GENERAL FUND | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
| 2 | All Other | \$6,000,000 | \$6,000,000 |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$6,000,000</u> | <u>\$6,000,000</u> |

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SUMMARY

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This bill establishes the Child Care Provider Student Loan Repayment Fund to support child care workers in underserved areas of the State with the repayment of student loans.

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