



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

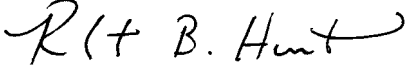
No. 1280

H.P. 855

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

Resolve, to Create Pilot Programs to Provide Tuition Assistance and Grants for Rural Child Care Providers

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


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, HASENFUS of Readfield, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, OSHER of Orono, RAY of Lincolnville, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, RENY of Lincoln.

1 **Sec. 1. Tuition assistance pilot program. Resolved:** That, by July 1, 2026, the
 2 Department of Education shall develop a pilot program to provide tuition assistance to
 3 students pursuing a degree in early childhood education or a related field. In developing
 4 the program, the department shall provide that students awarded assistance must be
 5 ineligible for free community college enrollment, must reside in a county with a population
 6 under 100,000 and must also apply for federal financial aid.

7 **Sec. 2. Rural child care development pilot program. Resolved:** That, by
 8 July 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a pilot program
 9 to provide grants to child care providers licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
 10 22, section 8301-A, subsection 2 and family child care providers licensed under Title 22,
 11 section 8301-A, subsection 3 and located in counties with populations under 100,000 to
 12 open or expand child care programs.

13 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
 14 appropriations and allocations are made.

15 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

16 **Higher Education and Educator Support Services Z082**

17 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a pilot program to provide tuition assistance to
 18 eligible students pursuing a degree in early childhood education or a related field. Up to
 19 \$30,000 of the funding may be used by the department to administer the pilot program.

20 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
21 All Other	\$300,000	\$0
22		
23 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$300,000	\$0

24

25 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
 26 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

27	2025-26	2026-27
28 GENERAL FUND	\$300,000	\$0
29		
30 DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$300,000	\$0

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

32 **Child Care Services 0563**

33 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a pilot program to provide grants to child care
 34 providers in rural areas to establish or expand child care programs. Up to \$30,000 of the
 35 funding may be used by the department to administer the pilot program.

36 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
37 All Other	\$300,000	\$0
38		
39 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$300,000	\$0

40

1	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,		
2	DEPARTMENT OF		
3	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
4			
5	GENERAL FUND	\$300,000	\$0
6			
7	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$300,000	\$0
8			
9	SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
10			
11	GENERAL FUND	\$600,000	\$0
12			
13	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$600,000	\$0

14

SUMMARY

15 This bill directs the Department of Education to develop, by July 1, 2026, a pilot
16 program to provide tuition assistance to students pursuing a degree in early childhood
17 education or a related field. In developing the program, the department must provide that
18 students awarded assistance must be ineligible for free community college enrollment,
19 must reside in a county with a population under 100,000 and must also apply for federal
20 financial aid.

21 This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to develop, by July 1,
22 2026, a pilot program to provide grants to child care providers licensed under the Maine
23 Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 8301-A, subsection 2 and family child care providers
24 licensed under Title 22, section 8301-A, subsection 3 and located in counties with
25 populations under 100,000 to open or expand child care programs.

26 This bill also includes a one-time appropriation of \$600,000 to implement these pilot
27 programs.