

LD 755 - An Act to Ensure the Success of All Maine Families Through Early Care and Education

Bill sponsor: Rep. Sean Faircloth

Referred to: Health & Human Services

Committee vote: OTP-A (amended to create study commission)

SUMMARY (Original Bill)

LD 755, in its original form, makes 9 investments designed to increase the quality of child care services in Maine:

1. **Quality Rating System:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis to increase the quality of child care throughout Maine through the establishment and maintenance of a Quality Rating System. (\$1.5 million annually)
2. **Maine Roads to Quality Curricula:** Appropriates funds on a one-time basis to update and expand on the training content in the core curricula that is used as the basis for the Maine Roads to Quality training and professional development for child care providers. (\$51,000 one-time)
3. **RDC Provider Training:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis to increase the capacity of the state's regional Child Care Resource Development Centers (RDCs) to provide comprehensive training and professional development to child care providers and to implement the new core curricula without having to eliminate existing training. (\$60,000 annually)

The RDCs help coordinate child care services by assisting parents, providers and communities to facilitate child care solutions and promote quality child care.

4. **RDC Staffing:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis to fund an increase to 40 hours per week (from 20 hours per week) the hours worked by "early care and educational specialists" at regional child care RDCs and to fund an increase in their compensation. (\$100,000 annually)
5. **RDC Parent Outreach:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis to increase the capacity of regional Child Care Resource Development Centers to provide parents with support and education in finding, choosing and retaining appropriate out-of-home care for their children. (\$125,000 annually)
6. **RDC Community Coordination:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis to increase the capacity of regional Child Care Resource Development Centers to stimulate local employers, schools and communities to work together in supporting the community need

for adequate and appropriate child care. (\$125,000 annually)

7. **Special Needs / Child Care Plus ME:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis for increased funding for the Child Care Plus ME program to continue to provide the current level of services, expand the number of children supported by removing income eligibility barriers and fund provider and program supports. Child Care Plus ME is a state funded program that provides technical and program supports to allow children with special needs to be maintained in mainstream early care and education programs (\$500,000 annually)
8. **ECE Evaluation:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis to track and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the State's investment in early care and education. (\$125,000 annually)
9. **State Office of Child Care and Head Start:** Appropriates funds on an ongoing basis for an additional Public Service Coordinator I position in the Community Services Center to administer the child care system in Maine. (\$80,000 annually)

TOTAL GENERAL FUND COST: **\$2.6 million annually**